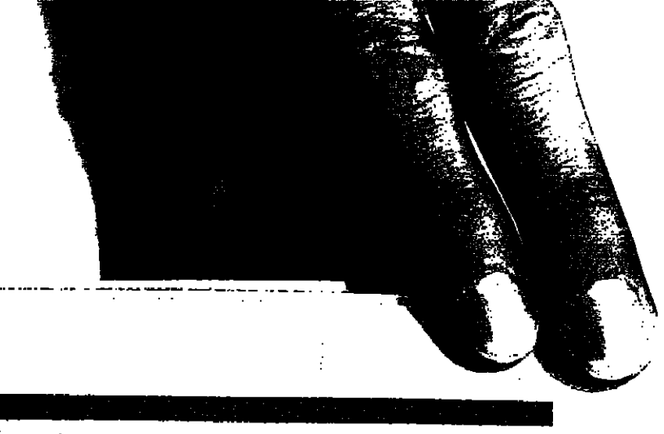


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Parents

Friday
November 6 1998
Britain's newspaper for Europe

The Guardian EUROPE

UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN



Sport98, Cover story



Friday Review, page iv



Clare Short, page 12

The human cells that will revolutionise medicine

Tim Radford
Science Editor

AMERICAN scientists announced today a discovery that could trigger a revolution in medical treatment: they have a found a way to grow any kind of human tissue in the laboratory.

The breakthrough, the most dramatic since the cloning of Dolly the sheep, comes with the cultivation of human embryonic stem cells, cells which contain within them the potential to become anything at all — blood, muscle, skin, even organ tissue — in the growing human body.

Two teams of US researchers have been able to "immortalise" these stem cells in mice. But today, they report in the US journal Science, they have reached one of science's holy grails. They have found a way to grow the cells of human organs in the test tube.

They identified stem cells — the master cells that make all the other cells — and found ways to make them survive indefinitely in a laboratory freezer. They then managed to cultivate them.

One group produced five sets of cell "lines" in the laboratory and watched them differentiate into the three primary tissue types of the human body, and then differentiate again into the cells that make up human cartilage, bone, muscle, nerves and guts — which could then be used in medical treatment.

"The potential of these unique, versatile cells for human biologic studies and medicine is enormous," said John Gearhart of Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, in Baltimore, Maryland, who will publish a separate but similar discovery in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

James Thomson, of the University of Wisconsin Madison, who led a separate team, said: "I believe in the long run they will revolutionise many aspects of transplantation medicine."

British researchers pursuing the same research were also jubilant last night. "The hype is justified," said Dr Robin Lovell Badges of the Medical Research Council in London.

"This offers the possibility of really transforming medicine in the next century," said Dr Austin Smith of the centre for genome research at the University of Edinburgh.

Paradoxically, the research raises enormous potential problems for the Americans. The tissue in the university laboratory dishes is taken from in vitro fertilised embryos less than one week old, no longer wanted for transplantation into infertile women. The tissue cannot "grow" into a baby — but it can be triggered into making liver cells or blood cells or any other specialised organs and tissues.

But although research on human embryos is permitted in Britain — if researchers can persuade the Human Fertilisation and Embrylogy Authority that it is justified — there are no federal funds for any such research in the US, because of the public alarm over the possible cloning of humans, first raised last year by the cloning of Dolly the sheep in Edinburgh.

So the US studies were entirely financed by the Geron Corporation of California. The commercial biotechnology company is the winner in a 17-year international race to find a way to make human spare parts.

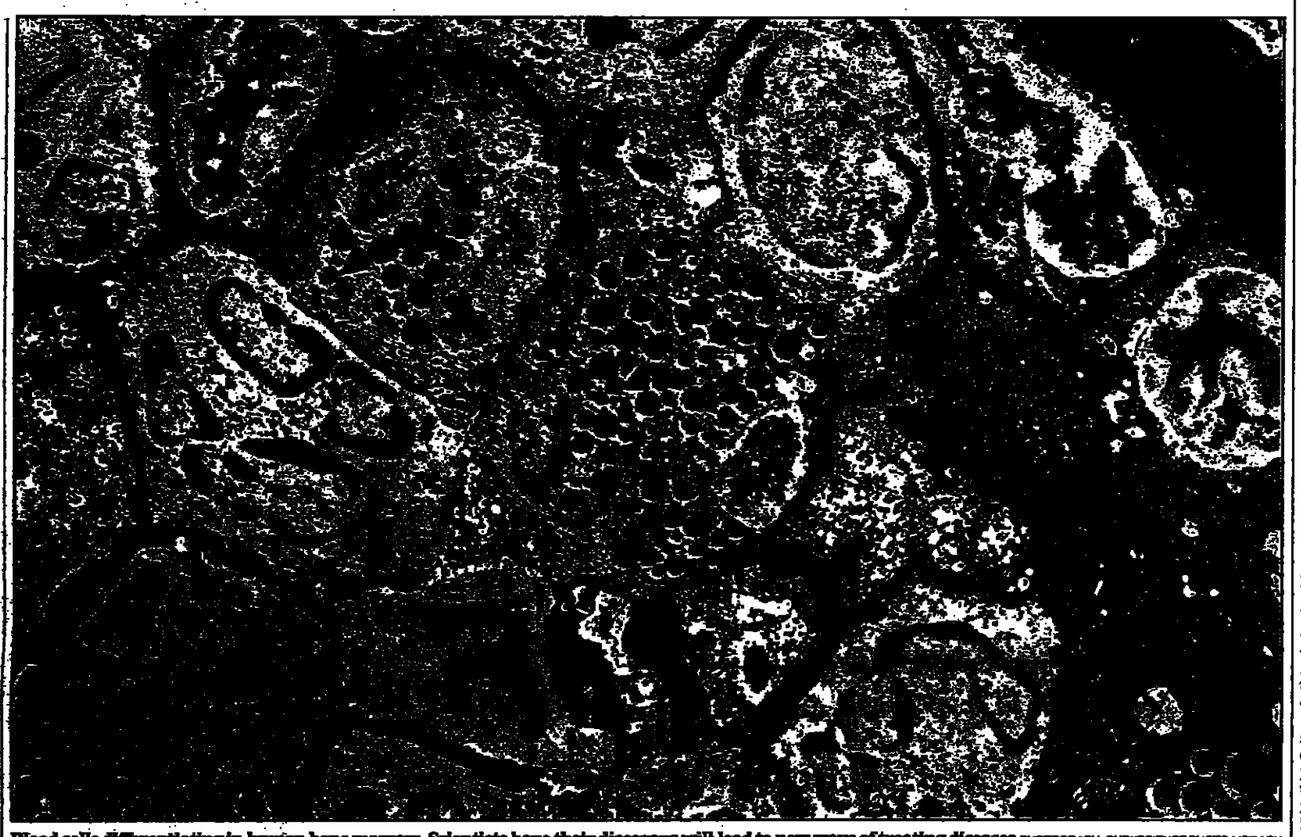
The discovery has profound implications for transplant medicine, drug discovery and basic developmental biology. The researchers say that the new tissue cultures could lead to new ways of treating diabetes, heart disease, some forms of cancer, possibly within a decade.

These could be used to screen thousands of chemicals for effective medicines. But the hope is that such cells could be used to repair spine and brain disease.

"One could make brain cells from these stem cells and transplant them into a site where brain cells are dying in people with Huntington's or Parkinson's diseases or even people who have had a stroke," said Dr Smith.

In theory, because the embryonic cells would not be fully formed, they could "take" in the new host. Dr Smith already has funding from the UK Medical Research Council to examine the technique in animals.

"I think we will be doing it with Huntington's in 10 years," he said. And James Thomson said: "It's no longer in the realm of science fiction. "I really believe that within my lifetime we will see diseases treated by these therapies."



Blood cells differentiating in human bone marrow. Scientists hope their discovery will lead to new ways of treating diseases PHOTOGRAPH: CNRI/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY



Rate cut throws industry a lifeline

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

THE Bank of England threw a lifeline to hard-pressed homeowners and businesses yesterday when it reacted to Britain's rapid descent towards recession with the sharpest cut in interest rates for five years.

Alarmed by the worsening state of the global and domestic economy, the Bank's nine-strong monetary policy committee abandoned its recent caution and surprised financial markets with a half-point cut in borrowing costs to 6.75 per cent.

Mortgage lenders responded to the move — which followed a quarter-point fall last month — with reductions in mortgage rates which will shave around £20 a month off the average £60,000 home loan.

However, share prices slumped in the City, where dealers saw the move as a panic measure by the Bank in the wake of recent data showing business confidence falling, industry's order books emptying and high street spending weakening. The FTSE 100 Index fell 143.1 points to close at 5479.8.

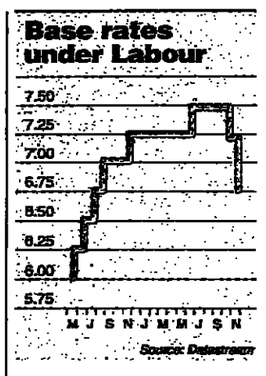
The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, said: "Today's cut in interest rates, which I welcome, follows the global downturn, which the Bank of England and I agree will lead to more moderate growth next year."

However, the shadow chancellor, Francis Maude, said that the Bank did not believe Mr Brown's "fantasy forecasts" for growth, which predict only a modest slowdown in activity next year and a rapid recovery in 2000.

"The Bank clearly thinks that the British economy is slowing very quickly as we have been warning for months," Mr Maude said. "Sadly this reduction may not be enough. Most people in business tell me that nothing less than a 1 per cent cut in rates will be enough to stop the country sliding towards recession next year."

Only three months ago, the Bank was warning that the level of earnings growth might lead to further increases in the cost of borrowing following June's increase to 7.5 per cent.

However, in a statement yesterday, it said: "Since the August inflation report was published, news about the international environment and prospects for domestic activity have led the committee to moderate its forecast for growth next year and to revise downwards its projection for inflation over the next two years."



Although government figures indicate that the economy grew by 0.5 per cent in the third quarter of this year, the Bank believes that the prespects for the economy have deteriorated sharply since the summer.

Official data yesterday showed factory output falling for the second month, while the Confederation of British Industry said retailers suffered their worst month in three years in October.

The CBI's director-general, Adair Turner, said: "The monetary policy committee have made the right decision. It was what we asked for and what I expected. Unlike a lot of people who thought that the Bank wasn't alive to downward as well as upward risks, I thought they were."

He predicted that rates would continue to fall and could be below 6 per cent within 12 months.

TUC general secretary, John Monks, also stressed that more cuts would be necessary if the economy was not to slump back into recession with massive job losses.

"This move is welcome and shows that the Bank has woken up to the plight of British exporters," he said. "Similar cuts are still likely to be necessary in the months ahead if we are to head off the dangers of recession."

City analysts believe the cut might be too little too late. David Walton, UK economist at Goldman Sachs, said even further cuts might not be enough to keep growth over 1 per cent in 1999, the minimum expected by Mr Brown.

Britain's biggest mortgage lender, the Halifax, cut its mortgage rate by 0.5 per cent to 8.2 per cent — a move which was followed by similar reductions from most of the other big banks and building societies.

Leader comment, page 13; Lenders cut rates, City Notebook, page 14

Doubts cast on Downing Street Davies story

Michael White and Will Woodward

DOWNING Street was "economical with the truth" over important details about the circumstances of Ron Davies's dramatic resignation as Welsh Secretary, it emerged last night. A crucial distinction surfaced between the details that Downing Street was prepared to make public and what it actually knew of the affair.

The distinction was glossed over in terms of what Tony Blair's press secretary then called "the salient facts" and what he now admits were "rumours" and "speculation" about a sexual encounter that had filtered through the Whitehall network in the hours after Mr Davies was robbed at knifepoint.

The issue dominated the twice-daily lobby briefings yesterday after it emerged that discussions had been going on at the highest levels on Tuesday morning and that far from being taken aback, Mr Blair had been briefed on some details of the extraordinary events which led to Mr Davies's resignation.

In fact, John Stevens, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan police, spoke to Home Secretary Jack Straw and Downing Street chief of staff Jonathan Powell about the Davies robbery in the hour before Mr Davies met Mr Blair at Downing Street.

The only background to the incident disclosed by the Home Office was "that there had been a crime against Ron and it occurred after Ron had been out on Clapham Common and had met a black male," Mr Blair's spokesman said. It has now been suggested that Mr Davies admitted he had changed his story several times and lied. It has also been claimed that Mr Davies admitted to police he was "cruising for homosexual sex". The Home Office and Number 10 deny they were told this. All Downing Street would say last night was that Mr Blair knew there were "discrepancies" in what Mr Davies had told police.

It was revealed that far from volunteering a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr Davies had been summoned to explain himself.

The most widely quoted phrase reported from the Downing Street spokesman's lips in the ensuring 36 hours was the remark that "There is no evidence at all of any gay link or drug link. There are no salient facts in our possession that are not in yours."

Downing Street is adamant it still does not know what really happened when Mr Davies committed a "serious lapse of judgment" on Clapham Common.

Mr Blair's spokesman said: "Last week I was briefing you on a very difficult and very painful departing member of the Cabinet. I freely acknowledged at the time there were parts of this story I found as baffling as you."

What did Davies tell police, page 3; Leader comment, page 13

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In *The* **Friday Review** today: Beck reveals how to be cool — change your tunes as often as your clothes

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Sketch

Honest Frank's roll call of neglect



Simon Hoggart

THERE'S something gratifying, and even moving, when the Commons debates a topic which it can do something about.

Kosovo, Iraq, the state of the British economy — these are intractable problems beyond the control of MPs. Inevitably, debates on such subjects tend to be empty, long-winded and posturing.

But child abuse is something they can, perhaps, affect. Yesterday Frank Dobson made a statement about last year's Utting Report on children in care.

Mr Dobson is the Health Secretary. At the time Utting reported, he was regarded as something of a joke figure among Cabinet ministers. No speech at last year's Tory conference was complete without a few Frank Dobson gags, mostly recycled Irish jokes. These were greatly appreciated by the representatives, who generally lack a sense of humour, but know how to laugh when they are told.

In fact Mr Dobson has proved to be one of the most efficient tactical operators in this Government. Unlike almost all other ministers, he has managed to extract extra money — lots of extra money — from the Treasury.

His reduction in hospital waiting lists is one of the few successes the Government has been able to report. (Of course, it's mostly fraudulent. In that people with short, simple operations are whizzed to the top of the list, but that's politics for you.)

Best of all, he has a decent, honest and straightforward way of speaking to the House. It's not rhetorical, it's not full of cheap oratory, and it makes few party political points. People laugh with him, but these days very few laugh at him.

The Tories have found it almost impossible to put a glove on him, which is why Ann Widdecombe, the shadow health secretary, tends to find her own triumphs outside the Commons.

Yesterday Mr Dobson said starkly that many children who had been taken into care for their protection and to receive help had received neither. Instead they had been abused and molested.

"This wasn't just a failure by the staff directly concerned. It was a failure by social services managers, by councils, councillors, the police, the court system, schools, voluntary organisations, neighbours, the news media, government departments, ministers and Parliament."

Such a long list could have seemed merely banal, an evasive proclamation that we are all guilty. But read out in Mr Dobson's flat, emphatic Northern accent, it had the opposite effect. It became a terrible, thundering roll call of neglect, ignorance and complacency.

The whole system had failed, he said, and the whole system had to be put right. "I asked everybody to . . . ask, 'would this have been good enough for me when I was a child?', or 'would this be good enough for my own children?' "

He described vividly the experience of being a child brought up outside a family. "No home to live in or return to. No shoulder to cry on. No morale-boosting chat before an interview, nor anyone to console us if it went badly. No one to give us a lift or make us a meal . . . the list is endless."

("And no one to drag us to the cops if we're caught selling a spliff," as one of my more cynical colleagues remarked.)

There were a few New Labour, new clichés: a three-year programme toe-curlingly called "Quality Protects", and a reference to "joined-up Government", that sneery, condescending phrase that has the dabs of the Downing Street neologicians all over it. But that doesn't matter.

Ms Widdecombe left it up to her understrapper Phil Hammond (C Runnymede) to reply. Mr Hammond looks like the chap in a BBC period drama who is engaged to the heroine before she falls for the interesting bloke. He tried to turn the statement into a party political occasion, and ended up looking very silly.

US Republicans stage retreat while Clinton, buoyed by mid-term polls, spurns Paula Jones deal

Impeachment drive falters

Martin Kettle in Washington

THE dramatic turnaround in President Bill Clinton's political fortunes became apparent yesterday when the Republican chairman of the House of Representatives judiciary committee drastically curtailed his impeachment inquiry, and Mr Clinton's lawyers spurned a reduced settlement offer from Paula Jones.

Less than 48 hours after a five-seat swing to the Democrats in congressional elections overshadowed partisan argument about Mr Clinton, the judiciary committee's chairman, Henry Hyde, announced a fast-track impeachment inquiry timetable in which the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, would be the only significant witness.

Speaking at a hastily arranged press conference in his Chicago constituency, Mr Hyde said he wanted "to end this matter as soon as possible" and intended to keep his "new year resolution" to conclude the inquiry before the start of 1999.

Mr Starr "is anxious to testify" and will give evidence to the committee in two weeks' time, on November 19, Mr Hyde announced. An unnamed legal expert would also give evidence on the law concerning testimony given under oath, similar to that given by Mr Clinton in the Jones case and to Mr Starr's grand jury on the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

The announcement means neither Mr Clinton nor Ms Lewinsky, the former White House intern with whom the president has admitted an "inappropriate relationship", will be called.

Before the elections, there was widespread speculation that Republicans would also try to call Mr Clinton's secretary, Betty Currie, his adviser Bruce Lindsey and his friend Vernon Jordan, with Democrats summoning Ms Lewinsky's former friend Linda Tripp and the right-wing conspirator Lucianne Goldberg. But yesterday's announcement ruled this out.

Mr Hyde claimed the elections, in which the Republicans had banked on increasing the momentum against Mr Clinton, had had "no significant impact" on his decisions. But Washington observers on all sides believe Mr Hyde and the Republican leadership are now bent on as rapid and dignified a retreat on impeachment as possible.

The judiciary committee may formally adopt two articles of impeachment against Mr Clinton by early next month, after the short hearings announced yesterday. The articles would be confirmed before Christmas by the outgoing House of Representatives — the House elected on Tuesday does not take office until January. Senate leaders would then negotiate an immediate end to the process, possibly with a formal congressional censure motion against Mr Clinton.

"If the bill of impeachment were to pass, then I think serious discussions of the nature you're suggesting might take place with the Senate," Mr Hyde said yesterday. "But I think it's, right now, premature."

Mr Hyde said the committee would ask the president whether he would "admit or deny" a series of facts about his sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky. If Mr Clinton agrees, Mr Hyde said, "he will allow us to narrow the issues and bring this matter to a close more quickly."

The new confidence in the White House is such that few observers expect Mr Clinton's lawyers to agree. There is speculation Mr Clinton and his wife Hillary may refuse even the censure compromise.

Mr Clinton repeated his public plea to the newly elected Congress to refocus on policy issues such as health and pensions. "The American people sent us a message that would break the eardrums of anybody who was listening," he said at the White House after a meeting with Democratic congressional leaders.

Mr Clinton's lawyers yesterday rejected a $950,000 (£565,000) offer from lawyers for Paula Jones to settle her sexual harassment suit. The president's lawyer, Robert Bennett, was said to be in favour of acceptance, but it is clear the White House no longer feels under pressure.

Jones lawyers quit, page 10





The Paula Jones (left) suit is collapsing, as Henry Hyde (right) and the Republicans backtrack on impeachment PHOTOGRAPHS: CRAIG FUJII/CHARLES BENNETT

Judges confirm Hindley's 'whole life' sentence

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THREE of Britain's most senior judges yesterday rejected Myra Hindley's appeal against her "whole life" sentence and confirmed that she must spend the rest of her days behind bars.

But two of the three judges voiced concerns about the way the Home Secretary has used his powers to leave Hindley and 23 other "life must mean life" prisoners without hope of release.

Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, indicated in his judgment on Hindley's appeal that he would have preferred a system under which the Home Secretary did not fix any term but instead reviewed the possibility of release every five years.

Hindley, who is now 56 and has spent 32 years in prison for the moors murders, was told straight away that she must spend the rest of her days behind bars by the governor at Highpoint Prison, Suffolk, where she is held. It is believed that prison staff were on standby to help her cope with the news.

The Court of Appeal's ruling said that as a woman in her fifties she could well face another 30 years in prison and confirmed that the Home Office is considering facilities for geriatric inmates. Her lawyers were given leave to take her case to the Lords.

Lord Longford, a long-time champion of her cause, said he was disappointed by the ruling but was convinced that one day she would be freed.

"The Lord Chief Justice has said that life should never mean life, that the prisoner should never be told that they will have to die in prison. Any decent Christian who knows anything about it knows that no woman or man should be kept in prison for 30 years. No-one thinks Myra is dangerous. I hope she will be released in your lifetime. I'm 92, so it probably won't be mine," said Lord Longford.

But Anne West, the mother of the murdered child Lesley Ann Downey, said: "This is one day I have been waiting for. I've been worried for the last three weeks and it's such a relief."

Lord Woolf, sitting with Lord Justice Hutchinson and Lord Justice Judge, ruled it was lawful for the Home Secretary to use his judgment in setting "life must mean life" sentences but upheld a previous court ruling that there also had to be the possibility of release on licence in exceptional circumstances.

Lord Justice Judge said the first full confession by Hindley in 1987 had revealed "a much greater level of involvement" with her co-defendant Ian Brady than she had previously admitted. In 1990, the then Home Secretary, David Waddington, increased her 30 year sentence to "whole life". Hindley was not told of the decision until 1994. It has since been confirmed by Michael Howard and Jack Straw.

"Given the appalling circumstances of these offences and her role in them, the natural life sentence was now justified," said Lord Justice Judge.

A statement on behalf of Hindley by her solicitors, Taylor Nichol, highlighted the reservations of the two judges.

"Lord Woolf went as far as to say that he interpreted the Home Secretary's decision to impose a whole life tariff as not meaning that at all but rather as having no fixed tariff, with Ms Hindley able to have regular reviews."

Her lawyers were disappointed that the appeal court accepted the 1987 confessions as sufficient reason to increase her sentence.

Review

Brisk, but only the Half Monty

Derek Malcolm

Little Voice
Odeon, Leicester Square

AFTER the near-disaster of last year's Keep The Aspidistra Flying, Little Voice, the London Film Festival's opening attraction last night, looks like a masterpiece. In fact, Mark Herman's first film since the highly successful Brassed Off is scarcely that.

It is a highly coloured, parodic and commendably brisk screen adaptation of Jim Cartwright's play, which gives Jane Horrocks a chance to reprise her role as the introverted young girl, hooked out of a down-at-heel seaside home by a veteran showbiz con man to become a singer.

From the onset, the film plunges into the story, encouraging its starry all-British cast very near to caricature right up until its mock-cathartic but feel-good ending.

Apart from the admirable Horrocks, who paints the introspective young warbler in terms not far from the characters she tends to play in Mike Leigh films, there is Brenda Blethyn as her blowzy mother, Michael Caine as the second-rate promoter and Ewan McGregor as the shy young pigeon fancier who falls for the girl. There is also Jim Broadbent as the sweaty club MC who is Caine's side-kick.

This is quite a cast but their considerable comic skills would have been better deployed on a less strident level, since the vital thing the film lacks is a balance between farce and the serious points Cartwright is trying to make about greed, exploitation and fakery.

Only once does Little Voice change into a more reflective gear, when the con man sits on the girl's bed and tells her a children's fantasy in an attempt to persuade her to escape her mundane existence. Here Caine, calling on his considerable experience, justifies his presence beyond any doubt. It is the film's one indelible moment.

At other times, however, Little Voice seems so overtly anxious to please that it takes on the same faults it is trying to underline. It is as greedy for success as the con man himself and you feel that if it stopped trying to grab you by the throat so often, its grip might be considerably tighter. It does a Half Monty on us, forgetting The Full Monty's essential humanity and charm.

The compensations are the pleasures of the smartly directed, fired-up performances, though Blethyn's is surely a yard or so over the top. She is the mother from hell, quite capable of sacrificing her daughter's sanity for the attentions of the sleazy promoter but she is finally crestfallen when he cruelly dispenses with her favours. But here, as elsewhere, the film could never be accused of pedestrian acting.



Jane Horrocks, 'admirable' as introspective singer

What The Papers (almost) Say

Janine Gibson
Media Correspondent

THE highly respected newspaper review series, What The Papers Say, yesterday emerged as the latest victim of the BBC's increasingly embarrassing Mandelson memo.

The programme's team have battled with BBC management all week in what insiders call a "ludicrous" dispute over tomorrow's edition, in which they intended to discuss the issues of press ethics arising from the "outing" of the Trade and Industry Secretary on Newsnight last Tuesday.

The 10-minute show has changed its script time and again. At least two versions have been recorded to try to get round the BBC's blanket ban on any reference to Mr Mandelson's private life.

Throughout the week, BBC producers, presenters and journalists have protested about the memo, issued after the journalist and former Tory MP Matthew Parris "outed" Mr Mandelson on Newsnight.

Makers of the review programme, which has run for 42 years, are believed to have been told they cannot make reference to the Newsnight incident, although it was widely reported in the press.

One insider said: "It is ludicrous that a programme of such renown as What The Papers Say is hampered in its discussion of press ethics in this case. It's called What The Papers Say, not What The Papers Should Say."

The guest presenter of this week's edition, Observer political commentator Andrew Rawnsley, said: "The blanket nature of the ban clearly creates difficulties in discussing the ban itself and the newspapers' reaction to it all."

He added: "I do remark in the script that a lot of the press used the Matthew Parris incident as an excuse to write about Peter Mandelson's private life. The irony is that the BBC's ban gave the press a further excuse to write about it."

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There were reports yesterday that during his interview by police Ron Davies (above) was so emotional they considered calling a doctor PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

A moment of madness

The event: Monday, October 26

Approx 6pm: Ron Davies arrives at Clapham Common.

9.30pm: He is robbed at knifepoint and his car is stolen.

10.25pm: Davies arrives at Brixton police station.

Tuesday, October 27

Approx 2am: Davies leaves police station.

Approx 8.30am: Scotland Yard calls David Omand, permanent secretary at the Home Office to report incident.

Some time between 10am and 11am: Home Office telephones Prime Minister's private office to report incident. Downing Street contacts the Welsh Office to speak to Davies and were told he was not there.

Approx 10.30am: Home Secretary Jack Straw meets John Stevens, deputy Metropolitan Police commissioner.

"Shortly before" 11am: Davies phones No 10 and says he wants to see Tony Blair.

11am: Davies meets Tony Blair and the Prime Minister's press secretary Alastair Campbell. He offers his resignation.

11.45am: Meeting ends. Davies returns to Welsh Office.

Approx 3pm: Davies is interviewed in secrecy by BBC correspondent John Sargeant about his resignation. He goes into hiding.

4pm: Alastair Campbell announces Davies' resignation and hands out exchange of letters between Davies and Mr Blair.

What did Ron Davies tell the police, and just what did the police tell Tony Blair?

Will Woodward

RON Davies has described the events which led up to his robbery as "a moment of madness". Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, says the details of what happened to Mr Davies last Monday night in Brixton and on Clapham Common are "baffling".

But the weirdness did not end when Mr Davies walked through the door of Brixton police station.

Ten days on, the Davies affair is still unresolved and unclear, not least because the police are unhappy about the story the former Welsh Secretary told them.

Mr Davies arrived at Brixton police station at 10.25pm on Monday, about an hour after he said he was robbed at knifepoint.

Mr Davies has admitted being in an emotional state.

There were reports yesterday that during his interview by police Mr Davies had been so emotional they considered calling a doctor. It was said he was "crying hysterically" and "curled up in his chair". It was alleged that he admitted to have been cruising on Clapham Common, but that allegation is not believed by other sources.

Mr Davies left Brixton police station at about 2am and returned to his home in Battersea.

But it was not just Mr Davies's behaviour that made alarm bells ring in the heads of the officer on duty at Brixton police station. Here was a cabinet minister in trouble, claiming he had been robbed at knifepoint. There were several versions of the night's events and he clearly was not telling the full story.

Superintendent Simon Foy, the senior officer at Brixton, was contacted. Very quickly so too was the deputy Metropolitan police commissioner, John Stevens. The commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, was on holiday.

Home Office sources say any police incidents involving a cabinet minister are reported to the Home Secretary as a matter of course.

Jack Straw was in meetings early on Tuesday morning. But "shortly after" 10am, Mr Stevens telephoned him and told him what had happened at Brixton police station just a few hours earlier.

Mr Straw immediately telephoned Jonathan Powell, the Prime Minister's chief of staff.

At 10.15am Mr Stevens came to the Home Office for a routine meeting with minister of state Alun Michael, who in a few hours time would be Mr Davies's replacement as Welsh Secretary.

He "stuck his head round the Home Secretary's door" and they had a short further discussion. Around this time Home Office permanent secretary David Omand was put in the picture.

At 10.20am Mr Powell rang back to speak to Mr Straw and the Home Secretary passed the telephone on to Mr Stevens.

Tony Blair's spokesman said yesterday that the first Downing Street knew of the incident was this brief exchange of calls.

But some time before 11am, Downing Street was aware that Mr Davies was linked with a rastafarian and that he was said to be a pimp or prostitute, the Guardian has established.

Downing Street said yesterday it was aware of "rumour" surrounding the robbery. It was also aware of alleged "discrepancies" in Mr Davies's evidence to police. The only background disclosed by the Home Office was "that there had been a crime against Ron and it occurred after Ron had been out on Clapham Common and had met a black male".

A senior government source believed MI5 were asked if they had any relevant information on Mr Davies's background.

"Everyone knows what Clapham Common means and of course we would immediately want to find out if there is anything at all about him that indicates that."

But MI5's involvement is denied by other official government sources.

Officials from Downing Street then contacted the Welsh Office to try to speak to Mr Davies. But they were told he was not in his office.

It is not clear when Mr Davies arrived at the Welsh Office on Tuesday. Some people say 9am, some 7am. But when Downing Street tried to contact him at about 10am, he was unavailable.

Downing Street sources and members of Mr Davies's camp have given the clear impression to several newspapers that he contacted Number 10 at about 9am.

Yesterday, this suggestion was shown to be false. Not only did Mr Davies not contact Number 10 until "shortly before" 11am, he only did so after being contacted by Downing Street.

A message was left that when Mr Davies checked in to his office he should come to see the Prime Minister.

Mr Blair's spokesman said Mr Davies telephoned Number 10 shortly before 11am and said he wanted to see Mr Blair.

At 11am Mr Davies met Mr Blair and Mr Campbell. Mr Powell may also have been present.

All sides insist Mr Davies offered his resignation rather than having it forced out of him.

"I realised there was going to be a feeding frenzy," Mr Davies said last week.

"I discussed this with the Prime Minister and said 'look this is going to happen' and he concurred. And having also discussed it with several senior colleagues, it was my view very clearly that my position as secretary of state would no longer be tenable."

Mr Blair, although sympathetic, was irritated by Mr Davies's refusal to explain what he had been doing on Clapham Common.

But Downing Street insists it was only the information Mr Davies gave Mr Blair which led him to accept his resignation.

At 11.45am the meeting ended.

It emerged yesterday that Mr Blair asked Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, to "dig around" the incident involving Mr Davies. An investigation was launched but there was no formal report because the inquiry was "overtaken by events," Mr Campbell said yesterday.

Mr Davies returned to the Welsh Office. He agreed with Mr Campbell the contents of his resignation letter. He then went to Brixton police station.

"When I went back to the police station I was able to give a more considered and fuller account," Mr Davies said last week.

But it is now clear that police are still not satisfied with his account and want to interview him further.

Mr Davies returned to the Welsh Office and about 3pm gave a short speech to staff saying he was resigning.

Shortly afterwards he gave a brief interview to the BBC's John Sargeant.

At 4pm, Mr Campbell announced Mr Davies's resignation and handed out an exchange of letters between Mr Davies and Mr Blair.

Last week he told journalists: "There are no salient facts in our possession that are not in yours." But it is now evident that Downing Street knew more than they were letting on.

> There were several versions of events and clearly Davies was not telling the full story



Brixton police station: Mr Davies's statement 'set alarm bells ringing' PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE BELL

Divisive Welsh leadership battle likely as Michael agrees to stand

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Welsh Secretary, Alun Michael, yesterday opened a potentially messy and divisive contest when he confirmed he will stand for the Welsh assembly leadership in place of the disgraced Ron Davies.

Mr Michael appealed to Cardiff MP Rhodri Morgan and Euro-MP Wayne David to join him on a unity ticket as his deputies.

"I believe this is in the interest of the Labour Party and the unity of Wales," he told a press conference in Cardiff Bay, within yards of the site of the new Welsh assembly.

Mr Michael said: "I have always wanted to see an elected assembly bring democratic accountability to the government of Wales. As a Welshman, I cannot think of a greater privilege than to help bring that dream to reality."

But Mr Morgan seemed set to force a contest that will effectively decide who will become the first secretary of the assembly next year.

"I was not a jersey warmer for Ron Davies and I am not a jersey warmer for Alun Michael," he said.

Peter Hain, the Welsh minister who will act as Mr Michael's campaign manager, said: "Alun Michael will bring to the job of first secretary the full authority of a highly regarded cabinet minister. He will be able to get the best deal for Wales."

He said the party had been through a traumatic period and expressed a hope that Mr Morgan might yet come round: "It's early days."

Tony Blair would have preferred to avoid a damaging contest, only two months after Mr Morgan fought Mr Davies for the post, coming a close second in the constituency section, the test of popularity among activists.

The contest, which the party hopes to get out of the way before Christmas, will expose the low morale in the Welsh party, partly a fall-out of the Ron Davies saga but mainly from disenchantment with Mr Blair's government, reflected in falling membership.



Alun Michael: call for unity ignored PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

Mr Morgan, a boisterous, gregarious and witty politician, has a big following in the party.

Mr Michael, by contrast, is portrayed as dull, having been plodding safely but steadily up the Westminster ladder.

In an early taste of the personal in-fighting ahead, a friend of Mr Morgan described Mr Michael as "not so much having a year planner in his office but a career planner".

He added that Mr Michael not only "wants to be parachuted into Wales but wants a return ticket", a reference to the widespread belief that Mr Michael was never enthusiastic about devolution, would have preferred to remain at Westminster and would seek to go back eventually to London.

The contest forces the battered Welsh party to choose between its traditional loyalty to the leadership and reservations about a candidate, Mr Michael, seen as being imposed by London on Wales.

Mr Morgan was being portrayed in government circles as charismatic but "too skittish", too lacking in weight, to be leader.

With the backing of Mr Blair, Mr Michael is almost certain to win.

Leader comment, page 13

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Fayed settles in strong-box case

Harrods chief agrees payout to widow of rival tycoon Tiny Rowland

Helen Carter

A BITTER 14 year feud between Mohamed Al Fayed and the late tycoon Tiny Rowland ended in the High Court yesterday with the Harrods boss agreeing to pay costs, estimated at £2 million, plus undisclosed damages, to the widow of his arch rival.

The settlement was finalised in a civil action by Josephine Rowland over claims that Mr Fayed ordered her late husband's safety deposit box at Harrods to be broken into.

Mr Fayed and three co-defendants agreed to pay Mrs Rowland the damages, which will be assessed at a later date, and costs for inducement of breach of the contract under which her husband had hired the strong box.

Three co-defendants involved in the break-in on December 6, 1995, were Mr Fayed's personal secretary, Mark Griffiths, his director of security, John Macnamara, and his chief bodyguard, Paul Handley-Greaves.

Undertakings were given yesterday that copies made of documents contained within the box would be destroyed.

They also agreed to pay the value of the missing items said to be contained in the box, which included emeralds, rubies, rare Tibetan coins, a gold cigarette case, documents, audio tapes and a Tibetan stamp, thought to be worth £200,000 in total.

Mr Fayed and Mr Rowland, the former head of Lonrho who died in July this year, had been fierce business rivals since they became embroiled in a struggle for the ownership of Harrods. The Egyptian won control of the store after giving statements about his wealth, but was found by a 1990 Department of Trade and Industry report to be a "liar and a fraud".

After losing Harrods to Mr Fayed, Mr Rowland retaliated by launching a propaganda campaign against the "phoney pharaoh" which sought to bar him from acquiring British citizenship.

Mrs Rowland's counsel, Christopher Moger QC, had claimed at the start of the nine day High Court hearing that the safety deposit box had been opened several times as part of Mr Fayed's long running campaign to overturn the DTI report.

Mr Moger said documents from the box were used in attempts to persuade Mr Rowland to sign a statement admitting he bribed Michael Howard, then a junior minister at the DTI, into appointing inspectors to carry out the Harrods inquiry. Attempts to persuade Mr Rowland to admit bribery involved an offer of £10 million.

The Commons standards and privileges committee rejected Mr Fayed's allegations against Mr Howard.

Mr Fayed admitted in documents submitted to the court that the box was broken into, but claimed his former head of security, Bob Loftus, was responsible, acting on his own initiative.

After the settlement, Mrs Rowland said: "I am very sad. I would have liked my precious mementos of Tiny back again."

Mr Fayed's counsel, Christopher Carr QC, stressed that the defendants denied taking valuables and so were not in a position to return them.

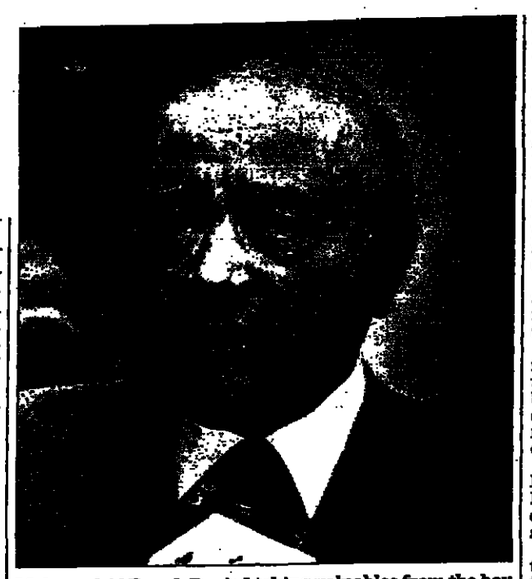
After the death of Mr Rowland, his widow vowed to continue the civil action, despite criminal investigations against Mr Fayed being dropped by Scotland Yard.

A spokesman for Mr Fayed said: "Sadly, Mr Rowland's death has robbed Mr Fayed of the chance to test Tiny Rowland's credibility in a court of law."

Third party proceedings brought against Mr Loftus by the defendants were dismissed by agreement.



Widow Josephine Rowland: 'I would have liked my precious mementos of Tiny back again' PHOTOGRAPH: JACK HILL



Mohamed Al Fayed: Denied taking valuables from the box

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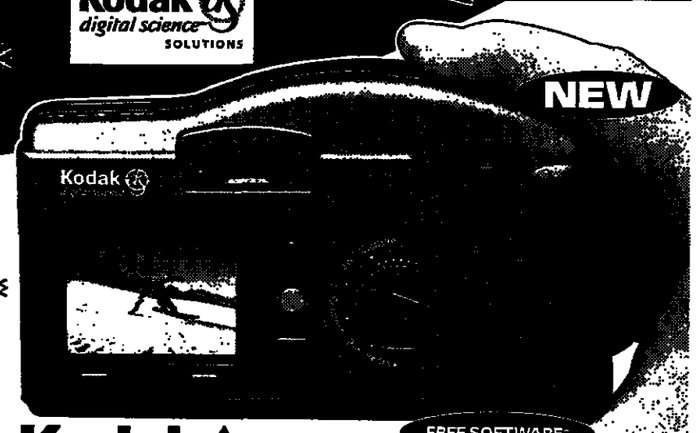
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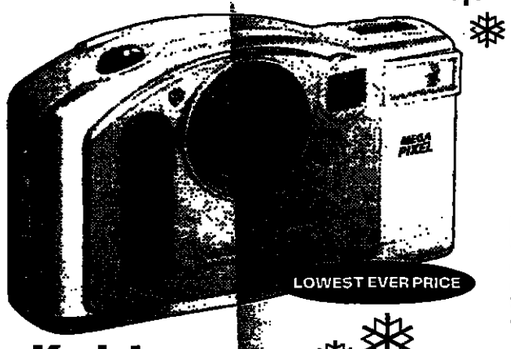
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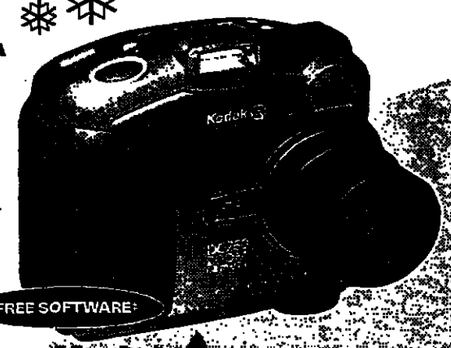
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Prisoners could 'visit' and pray via video link

Nicholas Watt
Political Correspondent

PRISONERS are to be given the chance to "attend" religious services through live video links as the technology is extended throughout the criminal justice system.

A video pilot scheme in Bristol, which links the city's courts and prisons, has proved such a success that the hope is to transform life in jail by including prison "visits" and religious services for minority faiths.

One benefit would be that families could use "teleconferencing" to talk to prisoners hundreds of miles from their homes. Families could also go to a solicitor's office with a video link and see relatives beamed in from jail.

One Whitehall source said the development could revolutionise prison visits. "Videos would also end the stigma of prison visits as children would be able to pay a discreet visit via a solicitor's office, rather than travel all the way to prison."

A televised link could also transmit religious ceremonies. At the moment there are so few imams who visit jails that many Muslims cannot attend Friday prayers. Under the new system services at a central location could be sent around the country.

The radical ideas for extending video links owe much to the enthusiasm for the Bristol system. In the city, prisoners remanded in custody are saved a visit to court by appearing via the live video link. This saves money and means prisoners do not have to spend an entire day travelling between jail and court for a hearing that often lasts just a few minutes.

Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Home Office minister, said yesterday that the Bristol scheme was "very positive, very encouraging". He said: "It is hoped that the system will be efficient in human terms and in cash resource terms. This pilot project may be the precursor to a wider use of technology in the criminal justice system."

Video links are cheap and simple to run. Once the equipment has been bought — each set costs about £10,000 — the system just needs two ISDN telephone lines, which cost 42 pence a minute. Officials hope that in the future solicitors will advertise video links in the way that they now advertise their services under the Legal Aid scheme.

Some criminologists are likely to take a sceptical view of the extension of live video links because the criminal justice system has been very slow in using video systems.

The police have still not organised video filming of police interviews, which are only audio-taped. And the Royal Ulster Constabulary has not yet begun to video interviews at the Castlereagh holding centre, even though such documentation is government policy.

Stephen Shaw, the director of the Prison Reform Trust, said he was worried about the idea of allowing prison visits to take place over a video link because it would encourage the Prison Service to hold inmates a long way from home.

"One of the most significant effects of overcrowding is that prisoners are transferred to prisons hundreds of miles from their homes," he said. "It makes a mockery of preparing [them] for release. The real answer is to make sure prisoners are held closer to their family to ensure that proper visits take place."

News in brief

PC jailed for sex assaults

A POLICE officer was jailed for two years yesterday for indecently assaulting five women, including a fellow officer.

PC David Elliott, aged 31, of Cheshire police, tried to drag the policewoman into a bedroom at his home while they were on patrol together in Crewe, Cheshire. He also indecently assaulted a woman prisoner, and assaulted two civilian employees of the Cheshire force and a petrol station attendant. A jury at Manchester crown court found Elliott guilty after a six-day trial.

The judge sentenced Elliott to two years for the indecent assault, a concurrent six months for kissing a woman cashier at a petrol station where he had called while on patrol, and two month sentences for the other assaults.

He said he was passing the least sentence possible taking into account Elliott's good references and the fact his career was destroyed.

HIV 'worse for women'

WOMEN are more vulnerable to the Aids virus than men, scientists report in the Lancet published yesterday.

Homayoon Farzadegan and colleagues of Johns Hopkins school of hygiene and public health in Baltimore, Maryland, said clinical guidelines for starting anti-viral therapy for HIV were based on studies predominantly on white homosexual men, but women ought to start treatment earlier because less of the virus was needed to bring on Aids in them.

Leaders of two UK Aids charities called for urgent research on the effect of treating women sooner. Derek Bodell, National Aids Trust director, and Elisabeth Crafer, director of Positively Women, said: "These findings highlight the lack of comprehensive research we have on how HIV affects women."

Man sprayed with CS dies

AN inquiry was launched yesterday into the death of a man three days after police used CS spray while arresting him after an incident in Armley, Leeds, on October 30.

Police said Eric Smith, aged 53, became violent and the spray was used to calm him. While in custody for two hours, he was seen by a doctor after complaining of the spray's effects. He was charged with affray and released. The next day he went to hospital for treatment and collapsed and died on Monday.

West Yorkshire police discipline and complaints department is investigating the death, and it has been referred to the Police Complaints Authority.

Library on prize short list

THE judges for the top architectural award, the Stirling Prize, have thrown out the recommendations of their own short-listing panel and added the British Library to the short list for the Building of the Year.

To be eligible for the £20,000 prize, designs must first be winners of one of the Royal Institute of British Architecture category awards. The library was nominated but was not an award winner.

It opened last year, five years late and, at £511 million, almost twice the original budget. It was designed by Colin St John Wilson.

Riba president David Rock said he was pleased the building was added to the list: "As well as being a fine building, especially internally, it represents a monumental achievement in the face of adversity."

The winner will be announced on November 19.
— *Maev Kennedy*

Teletubbies sex spoof

A DUTCH spoof of the BBC children's series Teletubbies, which showed lookalikes of Tinky-Winky, Dipsy, Laa-Laa and Po simulating sex and violence, could land its makers in court, a programming director has warned.

Fans of "Tuberculosis-tubbies," which is made by the irreverent youth channel BNN, have been posting obscene messages on a Dutch Teletubbies site on the World Wide Web, shocking parents.

Cees Schippers, programming director for Dutch broadcaster Teleac/Not, which operates the site, said BBC representatives had asked to see a videotape of the show and may consider legal action against BNN.



هكذا من الأصل

Plea for help by father of murdered woman

Geoffrey Gibbs

THE father of Jennifer King, the young Bristol woman murdered only minutes away from her family home after a night out with friends, braved the cameras yesterday to make an impassioned appeal for help in tracking down his daughter's "vile" killer.

With his wife Margaret sitting beside him, Ray King choked back tears as he spoke movingly of the "gut wrenching sense of loss and grief" the couple felt when called to identify the body of the dark haired 22-year-old he called his "little summer breeze".

They remembered a smiling, loving, warm and chattering daughter, but found only a cold, battered and lifeless form, Mr King told a news conference at the community centre in Warmley, Bristol, where Jennifer had a part time job as a barmaid.

"I challenge each and every one of you out there, if you dare, to close your eyes for just a few seconds and imagine yourself being in that situation. It is your worst nightmare.

"I firmly believe now that there can be no greater sense of loss than the death of a child who had everything in the world to look forward to."

Jennifer, a receptionist with a soft drinks firm, disappeared after leaving Chasers night club in Kingswood, on the outskirts of Bristol, alone just after 2 am on Saturday.

Her partly clothed body was discovered on Tuesday afternoon in a copse only a few hundred yards from the house in Crane Close, Warmley, where Jennifer lived with her parents, brother, Andrew, and younger sister, Sarah, whom she had been planning to take on a trip to Euro Disney, near Paris.

She had been strangled and her body dumped in a children's den.

A £25,000 reward has been offered for the arrest and conviction of the killer, who police believe is probably a local man. They say he may have been scratched and muddy after leaving the copse.

Although there were no firm sightings of Jennifer after she was was seen on video leaving Chasers, officers leading the investigation are keen to identify a man and woman who were seen walking along the main road in the direction of Warmley shortly after. The woman fitted the general description of Jennifer King.

At one stage the man was said to have been walking backwards in front of the woman and appeared to be pestering her.

Mr King yesterday appealed to the public to renew their efforts in helping the police.

"Please stop what you are doing for a few seconds now and reflect. There is out there somewhere a very dangerous person who must be caught and treated accordingly. He could well offend again. Until he is caught, there will remain an overriding element of fear wherever you are."

He called on clubbers and taxi drivers to come forward if they saw anything suspicious, and suggested that some people might know of a friend or relative who had begun to act strangely since Saturday or who might have had muddy clothing or been treating scratches.

"If you know anything at all, even if you are protecting someone, please come forward and tell the police," he said at the televised conference.

"If the person who committed this vile act is out there listening or watching this, I would plead with him to look into his conscience and soul. You cannot imagine the nightmare that we are going through at this moment. Myself, my wife and family and thousands of people who knew Jenny. They are all so distraught."

● A police officer will stage a reconstruction of Jennifer's last known movements on Saturday morning, to try to jog the memories of people who were at Chasers.





'I believe there can be no greater sense of loss than the death of a child who had everything to look forward to'

Raymond and Margaret King at the press conference in Bristol yesterday, after the murder of their daughter Jennifer (top right) PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS ISON

Killer Porsche 'show off' gets youth custody

A TEENAGER who killed two elderly sisters, while "showing off" and speeding in a £45,000 Porsche he had been given for his 18th birthday, was yesterday sent to a young offenders' institution for four years.

Satvinder Singh Nijer, a former Birmingham university student, looked stunned as he was sentenced at Birmingham crown court for two counts of causing death by dangerous driving.

The 19-year-old — who was also banned from driving for five years, and will have to retake his test to recover his licence — later broke down in the cells, his solicitor revealed.

Passing sentence, Judge John Warner said Nijer, of Wednesfield, west Midlands, was guilty of travelling at a "grossly excessive" speed when he knocked down and killed Winifred Carrington on her 76th birthday, and her 78-year-old sister Lavinia, as they walked along a road in the village of Compton, Staffs, in February last year.

He added that the teenager's father, who had given him the red 944 cabriolet, complete with personalised number plate, just 13 days earlier, shared the blame for the tragedy.

"He may bear no legal responsibility but in my view he has a lot to answer for. If he had thought about this, he would have known this was an accident waiting to happen," the judge said.

The judge told the teenager, who ploughed into the elderly spinsters as he showed two friends his car's power during a school lunch break: "In my view, this was a bad example of dangerous driving.

"You overtook at a grossly excessive speed at upwards of 60mph in a 30mph zone on a damp road when it was plainly unsafe and you lost control."

He said he was satisfied Nijer, whom police said marked a deadly race circuit around St Edmund's Roman Catholic School in Compton, had driven too fast along the same road on the days immediately before the accident.

"The term showing off is an emotive term but has been used. I am sure you were showing your friends just what the car could do and what you could do in it during a short journey at the end of your school lunch hour.

"Not one death, which would have been bad enough, but two deaths occurred as a result of your criminal behaviour. Mercifully it would appear they did not know what had happened to them."

During the two week trial, at Stafford crown court last month, the jury heard how the sixth former lost control after speeding at up to 70mph in a 30mph area and trying to overtake another car.

The Porsche — which had the personalised number plate SSN 1S — struck a kerb twice before veering sideways, hitting a fire hydrant, and knocking down the unmarried sisters, who lived together in Aldersley, Wolverhampton.

One was thrown into the air and the other carried along the bonnet before becoming trapped with the sports car in a hedge.

Both died instantly.

Yesterday, Judge Warner said Nijer's youth and subsequent "immaturity and lack of judgment" were mitigating factors. He acknowledged he and his family — which has since received hate mail — had been devastated by the accident, and said the teenager's education had been affected.

Roger Smith QC, defending, said Nijer was previously of blameless character and "by all accounts an admirable young man."

After the trial, the youth's father, businessman Satvinder Nijer, said: "Now I know I was wrong to buy it."



Satvinder Singh Nijer, who ran down two pensioners

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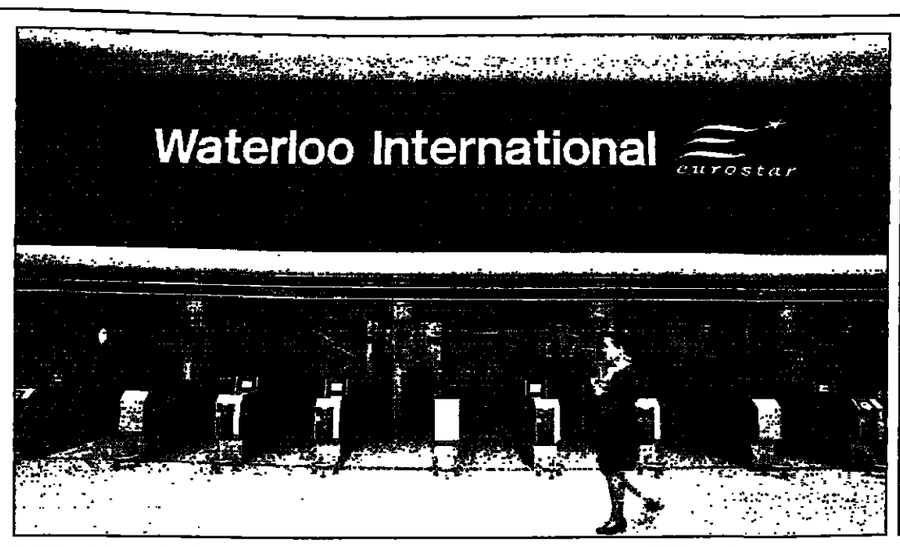
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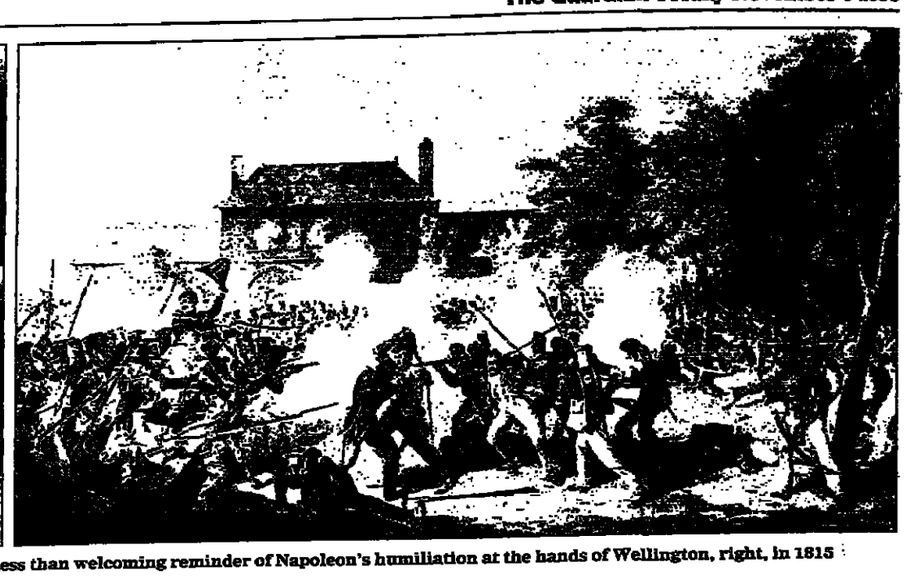
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French plea for new name at end of tunnel journey





Rubbing it in . . . London's Eurostar terminal which, Tony Blair has been told, French visitors see as a less than welcoming reminder of Napoleon's humiliation at the hands of Wellington, right, in 1815

Jon Henley in Paris

INDIGNANT at the humiliation suffered daily by thousands of his countrymen arriving in Britain by Eurostar, a senior Gaullist politician has demanded that Tony Blair find a new name for the London station that commemorates one of France's less glorious encounters with its old adversary.

"You will understand, I am sure, the discomfort the French feel when they are welcomed by the name Waterloo after crossing the Channel tunnel, a symbol of co-ordination and co-operation between our two nations," wrote Florent Longuepée, a member of the national executive of President Jacques Chirac's RPR party, in a letter to the Prime Minister.

"At a time of European integration, to which I know you are attached, it seems to me more than opportune for the English to re-baptise this station under another name. I am not asking that you strike from the annals of your country this feat of arms, merely that you transfer such a symbolic name to a less emblematic site."

Waterloo, a village outside Brussels, was the site of the Duke of Wellington's celebrated victory in 1815 over the French army led by Napoleon Bonaparte.

Although many French railway stations are named after famous Napoleonic victories, Mr Longuepée pointed out that they do not welcome visitors from the countries France defeated. "It is as if the Gare de l'Est, which serves travellers from Germany, was named the Gare de Verdun," he said. "We French do not impose such a humiliation on people who come here. Why should the English?"

But mindful of the reputation of perfidious Albion, Mr Longuepée, who is also a Paris councillor, is keeping his powder dry. If Mr Blair does not heed his request, he wrote, he will fight to have the Gare du Nord, where Eurostar trains from London arrive, renamed the Gare de Fontenoy. "That, as I am sure you are aware, is another small village in Belgium," he wrote. "But in 1745 Louis XV beat the English there."

While it was Napoleon who launched the idea of a Channel tunnel in order to invade England, Mr Longuepée said the days of such animosity should be forgotten. "At the battle of Fontenoy, the Count of Auteroche uttered the words: 'Gentlemen of England, you may take the first shot'. In 1998 it should be the memory of that courtesy we should preserve, rather than that of our confrontations."

Pay TV warning for 'all live sport and top shows'

Chris Barrie

TELEVISION viewers may soon find themselves having to pay to watch all live sports programmes and many of the top entertainment shows, Sir John Birt, director general of the BBC, has warned.

The stark forecast comes shortly after the corporation came under fire for losing broadcasting rights over several leading sports events and amid worries that the advent of digital pay television will leave many people cut off from the best the information age can offer.

Predicting that broadcasting will one day no longer be a shared cultural experience, Sir John said it was "inevitable" that producers of top of the range programmes would "seek to extract higher revenues" by using pay television technology.

He told the Guardian: "At some point in the future, high quality live sport — perhaps all of it — will be pay perview."

Pay per view television, where viewers pay to watch a specific programme or televised event, is already used by broadcasters such as British Sky Broadcasting for top-rated films and sporting events. But Sir John believes that this form of pay television will also govern access to other forms of entertainment such as hit comedy shows.

He indicated that the Government was not in a position to stop this trend, which would "bring to an end 75 years of broadcasting being a common experience for people". Although more material would be on offer with the advent of multi-channel television, it would come at a price.

"The riches on the screen are likely to cost increasingly large amounts of money." Watching television had been "modestly costed" in the past, and people had become used to watching this "terrific experience" a lot for very little.

Sir John's views come amid the growing expectation in broadcasting that the rights to the most popular programmes will be auctioned to rival channels fighting to differentiate themselves in a much more competitive environment.

Television producers running, and in many cases owning, independent television companies, would try to "extract the maximum value from the consumer".

A small number of independent production companies are now large and successful enough to dictate terms to broadcasters such as the BBC, Sky, the ITV network and Channel 4, which want their programmes. Among them are Hat Trick (makers of Have I Got News For You), Ginger Media (part-owned by Chris Evans and maker of TFI Friday), Bazalgette, Mentorn Baraclough Carey, TalkBack, Tiger Aspect and Planet 24.

The BBC is concerned that it could be cast in the role of midwife to successful programmes, funding them through their development and early screenings, only to be powerless to retain the successful ones as the creators sell the rights to the highest bidder once established.

The Government has tried to limit this process by listing national sporting events.

Sir John said the Government must ensure that major sporting events were available on free television, if only in recorded formats after the event. But taking similar action over entertainment programmes, which may be created by one person, would be much trickier.

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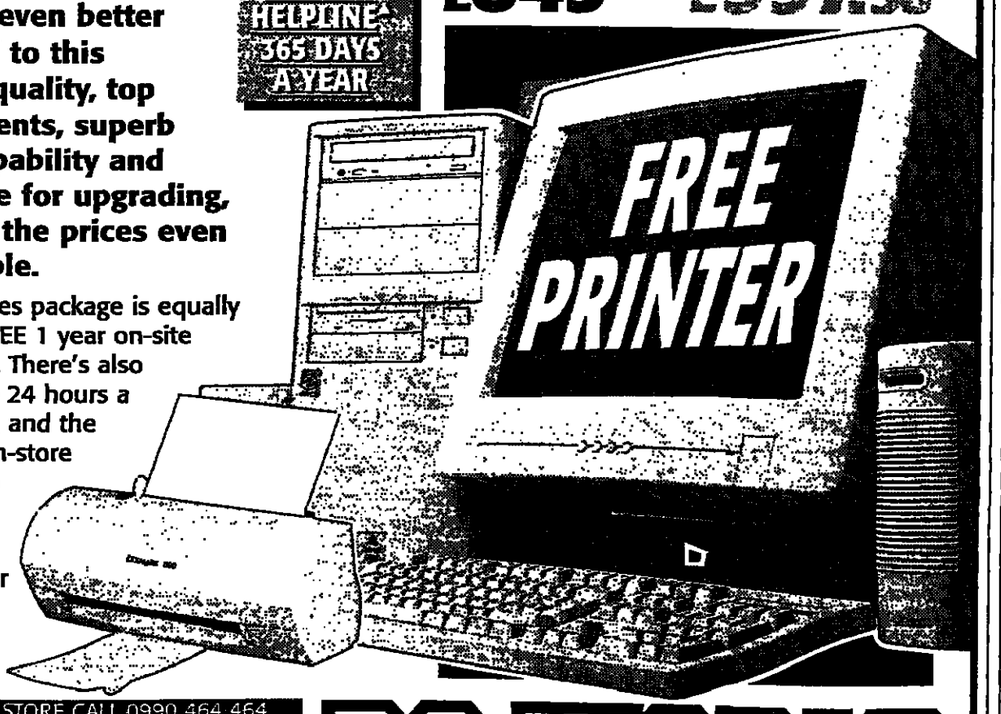
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Lowry painting hanging in girls' boarding school expected to fetch more than £300,000 at auction

Sarah Hall

FOR 16 years it had hung near the entrance of a girls' boarding school passed by teachers, parents and pupils with barely a second glance.

Those at the genteel Princess Helena College, near Hitchin, Herts, knew the painting was an L S Lowry — but did not view it as particularly valuable. It was "part of the scenery" and, staff believed, worth £30,000 at most.

So they were asonished to learn that the work — entitled May Day and depicting a group of children gathered around a maypole in a typical Lowry townscape — was actually worth ten times that figure.

"We were quite taken aback and very pleasantly surprised," the school's bursar, Christopher Marley, said yesterday. "We thought it might have been worth a substantial sum, but we never dreamed it was anywhere near six figures."

Confronted with the cost of installing museum-standard security to guard their treasure and higher insurance, the school decided to sell the gift from an old girl to improve its arts facilities.



L S Lowry's May Day, which is up for auction this month

It will go under the hammer at Phillips, central London, on November 17, where it is expected to fetch £300,000.

The work, which dates from 1935, was bought by old girl Mary Archer for £31-10 shillings in 1939 and bequeathed to the small boarding school on her death in 1982.

At the time, it was valued at a couple of thousand pounds, but the current market for Lowry — which saw Phillips sell Piccadilly Circus for the record sum of £562,500 in June, an increase of £176,000 on the previous highest payment for a Lowry — means the value has rocketed.

Yesterday the auction house's modern British painting specialist, James Rawlin, said May Day could exceed its £300,000 estimation. He added that the painting was important since it came from the period when Lowry's distinctive style — combining industrial street scenes, scurrying, matchstick figures and a brighter palette — was beginning to crystalise.

"It's an exceptional example of Lowry's work belonging to an important group of his works. It comes right in the middle of when he was getting it right," he said.

The painting is believed to depict a scene from Salford or Manchester, the setting of the majority of his 3,000 to 4,000 works, and the area where the artist, who lived from 1887 to 1976, was born.

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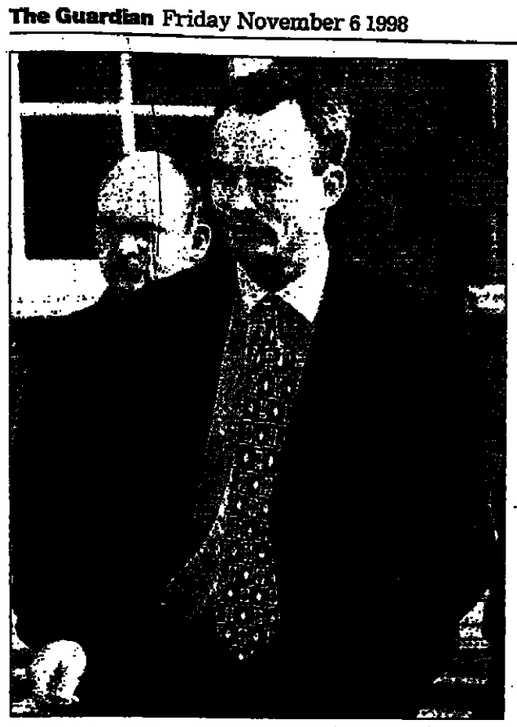


Father Christmas is coming to town. Celebrations start at 8.00am this Saturday with a carnival outside Harrods on Hans Crescent, featuring stilt walkers, fire-eaters and a traditional fairground organ. Shortly afterwards snow will fall as Father Christmas arrives in his sleigh drawn by reindeer, accompanied by a parade of elves, pipers and amongst others a giant snowman. At 9.00am, Father Christmas will make a tour of the store before arriving at his Grotto on the Fourth Floor at 9.30am, where he will remain until December 24th. So come along and meet Father Christmas. After all, it's not often he pays us a visit.

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Cruel: Andrew White, trainer PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEPHENS

White told one handler: 'If you are instructed to string your dog up, you string him up. If you don't like it, you can have your dog put down'







The Essex dog unit at Sandon where constables Boorman (top) and Hopkins (below) compelled other handlers to abuse dogs SANDON PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN DEMPSEY

Four months in prison for cruel police dog handlers

Helen Carter

A POLICE sergeant and constable who ordered dog handlers to hang their animals by thei leads, then kick and punch hem, were given four month jail sentences yesterday foi breaching the Protection of Animals Act.

Hanlers at the Essex police log unit in Sandon had been old to dominate their Germn shepherd dogs by suspeding them over fences or wals by their choke leads and kicking or punching them. One dog, a four-year-old called Acer, died of internal bleeding when his liver ruptured after a beating in November last year.

Andrew White, a sergeant aged 37, who was head of training at the dog unit, was found guilty of seven charges of causing other officers to cruelly ill-treat police dogs, and instructor Kenneth Boorman, a constable aged 45, was found guilty of six similar charges. Both men were given jail sentences by Chelmsford magistrates court, but were released on bail pending an appeal against their convictions and sentence.

Another instructor and constable, Stephen Hopkins, aged 42, was found guilty of one charge of causing a handler to ill-treat a dog and was ordered to do 200 hours community service and pay £1,000 towards costs. Graham Curtis, a 43-year-old inspector, was found not guilty of three charges of failing to issue an order to prevent unnecessary suffering to animals.

Kevin Gray, the magistrate, told Boorman and White: "The method you used can only be described as brutal. I would be failing in my duty if I did not reflect the seriousness of these offences by passing custodial sentences."

The court had heard how the officers encouraged dog handlers to be cruel and were abusive to anyone who dared challenge their methods. One handler described how dogs were swung around in the air by their leads "helicopter style".

Another had been told by White: "If you are instructed to string your dog up, you string him up. If you don't like it, you can have your dog put down."

After the beatings, the dogs were subdued, their tongues would turn blue and their eyes would bulge.

When interviewed by police investigating allegations of cruelty, White, Boorman and Hopkins made statements in which they appeared to accept that the hanging method was justified if a dog attacked its handler or seemed about to attack.

The cruel training methods were condemned by dog breeders yesterday. "I have heard a lot of people say they won't give German shepherds to the police any more after hearing about this cruelty," said Dorothy Beach, a former Crufts judge of alsatians. "People used to be proud to put their dogs into the police, but if they don't do something about this, they won't get any more dogs."

David Alcock, secretary of the German Shepherd Club of the UK, said: "Beating the dog makes it cowed, which makes the handlers think it's willing, but in fact they are doing irreparable damage to its working abilities in the future. The dog will be afraid of its handler, instead of trusting and respecting him, and when the dog encounters a criminal it will react with fear, instead of confidence."

Andy Mitchell, RSPCA chief inspector, said: "It is a horrific method of disciplining any animal. The dog would be nervous and would start reacting nervously around the handler, and when you consider the situations a dog and handler go into, the last thing you want is a dog that doesn't have a bond of trust with you."

An Essex police spokesman said: "The death of a dog was a matter of great regret within Essex police. The dog unit has a long and proud record of public service. As a result of this investigation, Essex police has reviewed the monitoring of its dog training, to ensure it is always conducted in accordance with the official police manual. The matters referred to in court will now be considered by the chief constable under disciplinary regulations."

Scientists learn from dead parrot

Tim Radford
Science Editor

IT fell off its perch 70 million years ago. It became an ex-parrot even before the dinosaurs became ex-dinosaurs. Nobody knows the colour of its feathers, what it ate, or whether it talked. But they know it was there.

The reason is it left its bottom jaw in the upper cretaceous rocks of Niobrara County, Wyoming — one little beak that became a silent testament to the odd fact that, while allosaurs, maiasaurs, plotosaurs, ankylosaurs and other great reptilians plodded over the landscape, parrots perhaps perched on their shoulders.

The "toothless avian dentary symphysis" or fused jawbone, is the only one of its kind, according to a report in Nature today.

"This symphysis appears to represent the oldest known parrot and is, to my knowledge, the first known fossil of a terrestrial modern bird group from the cretaceous," says Thomas Stidham, of the palaeontology museum at the University of Berkeley, California.

Water birds get covered in mud when they die, and are easily preserved. Fossil land birds are rare finds, so this beak speaks volumes. The end of the cretaceous era was the end of the dinosaurs — marked, it is thought, by a 10-kilometre asteroid which crashed into the planet at perhaps 10 miles a second, 65 million years ago, obliterating a lot of life on Earth. But even if the dinosaurs did not survive, parrots went on perching during and after the great mass extinction.

The luckless psittacine's little fragment of discarded pecker looks as if it might have belonged to a lory — one of the brightly coloured fruit eaters — which means there might well have been plenty of flowering plants around. And if there were parrots, says Dr Stidham, then there must have been other kinds of modern birds as well.

The question is, how could something wipe out huge, muscular creatures like the dinosaurs, but leave delicate animals like birds for another 70 million years? It suggests that the last dinosaurs lived in a world very like this one. And, according to Angela Milner of the Natural History Museum, "a parrot then would have had more or less the same lifestyle as one today".

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What artists & repertoire men do
FridayReview page iv

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Relief flows into a black hole

POLITICS OF AID/Calls for a debt write-off have been ignored, despite the scale of the disaster, writes John Vidal

WHILE promises of relief to Honduras and Nicaragua were gathering pace yesterday, with public appeals and offers of assistance from across the world, the international community was castigated for not responding fast enough or cancelling the debts of hurricane-devastated Central American countries.

But a week after the hurricane struck, it was becoming clear that it may be beyond the ability of the international community and local governments to cope.

"With the infrastrucure gone, starvation and disease approaching and hundreds of communities uncontactable, it may be weeks before needs can even be properly asessed or relief can get in," said the International Red Cross.

The Honduran government warned that the situation would swiftly deteriorate unless more international food and medicines were delivered and washed-out bridges and roads were quickly rebuilt. The country's president, Carlos Flores, said Hurricane Mitch had destroyed more than 60 per cent of the country's infrastructure, setting development back decades.

"The disaster has overwhelmed government, the military, non-government groups and civil society," said the International Red Cross, which has has pledged £4.5 million. Food, drinking water, small power boats to reach flooded areas, medicines, blankets, water purification tablets, blood, materials for emergency shelters, helicopters, and temporaray bridges were all needed just to overcome the immediate problems, said a spokesman.

The United States pledged a major airlift to supply $66 million worth of aid, and the European Union and other countries said they were preparing to act. France said it was sending 250 civilian and military rescue workers, and many embassies were informally lending planes and helicopters to help. Regional shipping companies offered their services for free.

The World Bank sent $15 million to Honduras and Nicaragua for medical and immediate aid, and said it had started negotiations to convert $300 million already allocated for projects there to infrastructural and disaster relief work. "Let's get them back on their feet and then think about debt relief," said a spokesman in Washington.

> 'Let's get them back on their feet and then think about debt relief'

Britain was criticised for only promising £750,000 worth of initial medicines and supplies. Jubilee 2000, a coalition of more than 50 development groups, charities, Church and trade union organisations calling for the elimination of Third World debt by the millennium, yesterday described the offer as "mean and inadequate".

"Honduras and Nicaragua between them pay more than $1 million a day in debt repayments. We should be pouring money in. They owe us $3.4 million and it is scandalous that we do not cancel that debt," said a spokesperson.

"Even before the disaster, half of Nicaragua had no access to safe water or sanitation. Eighty per cent of Honduras' income goes to pay debts. Nothing short of an immediate moratorium on repayment is acceptable," said a Christian Aid spokesman.

A spokesman for the Department for International Development said the government was waiting to see what the needs were. "The situation is developing. When we get project proposals and when the UN assessment team has reported back, then we can respond." The Treasury said government policy was not to write off debt unilaterally and there were better ways to address disasters.

The International Development Secretary, Clare Short, writing in today's Guardian, urges a careful response: "Too often responses to disasters have been made worse by well-intentioned but uncoordinated outside help. Local and regional organisations are taking the lead in identifying priority needs," she writes.

She was referring especially to the Rwandan refugee crisis at Goma, when hundreds of groups went in, but this was an exception, said Oxfam. The reality is that disaster aid is now media-driven, with countries often holding back immediate aid until there is public demand for something to be done. Guatemala feels particularly grieved in this disaster because few television crews have reported from there.

> 'Decades of work have been eliminated in 24 hours'

If the immediate needs are shelter, preventing disease, repairing infrastructure and feeding people, the longer-term work is daunting.

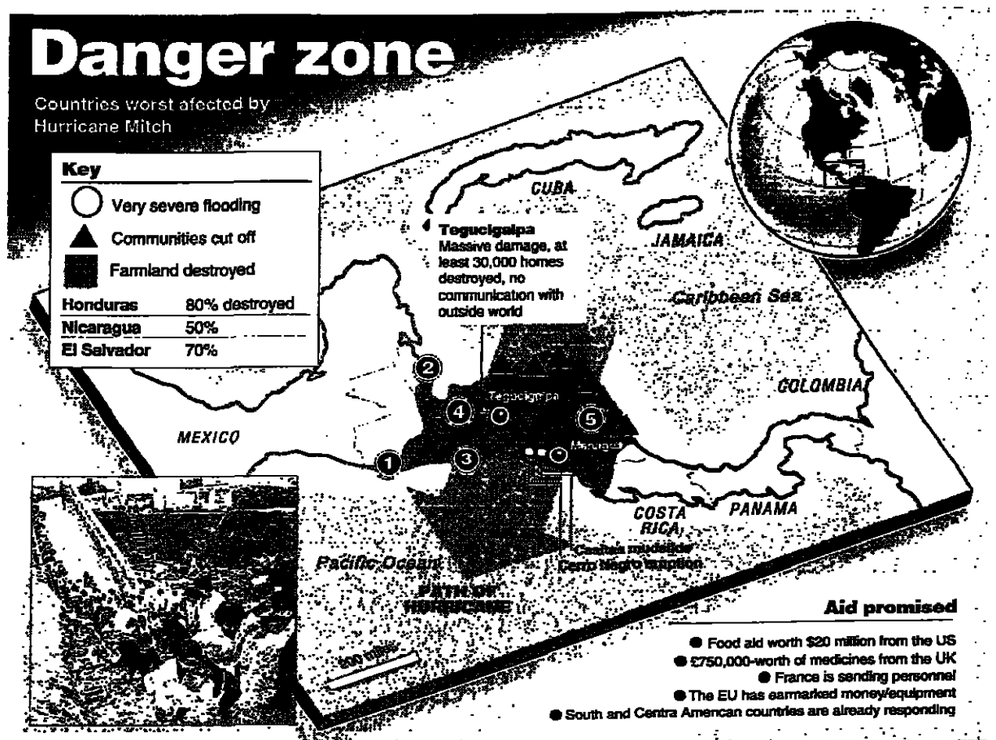
"Decades of work building up employment and community programmes in the poorest of countries have been eliminated in 24 hours," a spokesman for Trocaire, a big Honduras development organisation, said.

● Oxfam has launched an appeal. Tel: 01865 31 31 31. The joint UK charities' appeal is expected to start in the next few days.

Clare Short, page 12

Danger zone

Countries worst afected by Hurricane Mitch



1 Guatemala

100 people dead, 50,000 severely affected, 28,000 homeless.
Damage to roads and power lines is extensive leaving some major towns isolated and preventing access to many areas



2 Belize



Less badly affected but nearly 10,000 families badly in need of assistance in Belize, Costa Rica and Panama

3 El Salvador

500 dead, 45,000 homeless, 100,000 severely affected.
300 emergency shelters set up. Access to some of the worst affected areas is impossible, there have been over 300 landslides.

4 Honduras

Worst affected of all the countries: 5,000 dead, 200,000 homeless, 2 million people severely affected.
58% of the land is under water, 75% of agriculture is destroyed. Capital, Tegucigalpa, is completely ruined with no external communications.
60% of the county's infrastructure is destroyed, including 7,000 houses and 73 bridges.

5 Nicaragua



At least half the country severely affected. 1,300 dead, 500,000 homeless.
Casita volcano collapse killed many. Nearby volcano, Cerro Negro, is spewing lava and covering surrounding areas with ash.

Search for dead hidden by landslide

NICARAGUA/ Juanita Darling on the mourning for relatives buried in a mix of mud and lava

AFTER a kiss from his aunt, Isaiah Vásquez, aged 12, was nailed into a gray wooden coffin by family members who, even in grief, still counted themselves lucky. At least they know where he is buried.

That is not true of many of the 1,200 or more victims of the Casitas Volcano mudslide, which appears to be the largest single disaster caused by Hurricane Mitch. It may not be true in relation to other missing family members either.

No one knows yet how many people were killed in the mudslide, but the tragedy could account for a quarter or more of the 9,000 deaths throughout the region blamed on Mitch.

Isaiah was buried just a few yards away from the sugar cane mill where witnesses said health ministry workers had burned 20 unidentified bodies a few hours earlier to prevent epidemics.

The Vásquez family farm lay in the path of the huge mudslide that began when Mitch's torrential rains broke the side of the Casitas Volcano in western Nicaragua last week. Water from the rain and the lake in the crater mixed with lava, forming a wall of mud that covered entire villages.

Mud washed down the mountain to the county seat of Posoltega, carrying trees that now lie upended in fields with their roots reaching towards the sky amid bodies scraped and broken beyond recognition.

A few corpses made it to the sugar mill, but most stopped farther up the mountain in a cane field.

Norberto Miranda, a 26-year-old farm worker, tried pushing through the soft muck towards the village of Los Rodriguez, where his uncles and cousins lived, but turned back. "I just couldn't do it, I kept sinking," he said "The whole family is there."

Earlier this week a revived Tropical Storm Mitch raced across the Gulf of Mexico toward southern Florida and the Florida Keys, buffeting the region with rain, wind gusts up to 50mph and tornadoes.

The Nicaraguan president, Arnoldo Alemán, told the country that it probably never will know exactly how many people died in the mudslide. Most of the bodies that are found will never be identified. Worried about epidemics amid the devastation left by Mitch, the government has ordered bodies burned, even as the search for survivors continues.

"Some have been given a Christian burial. Others will be burned. We will declare the area a cemetery."

Countrywide, the Nicaraguan government estimates that more than 2,000 people have died and that in additional 1,800 are missing.

Radio stations broadcast calls from relatives begging for information about villages made inaccessible by collapsed bridges and washed-out roads.

"This is a worse blow than what happened in 1972," Mr Alemán said, referring to the earthquake that destroyed the capital, Managua.

Both the earthquake and Hurricane Gilbert, which devastated the Atlantic coast in 1980, were localised disasters, he said. Aid could be taken to the affected area and distributed efficiently.

In contrast, Mitch caused damage throughout the country, crippling efforts to reach survivors.

"We cannot get food to people by road," said Vice-President Enrique Bolaños, who heads the National Emergency Commitee. "The helicopters are the bottleneck."

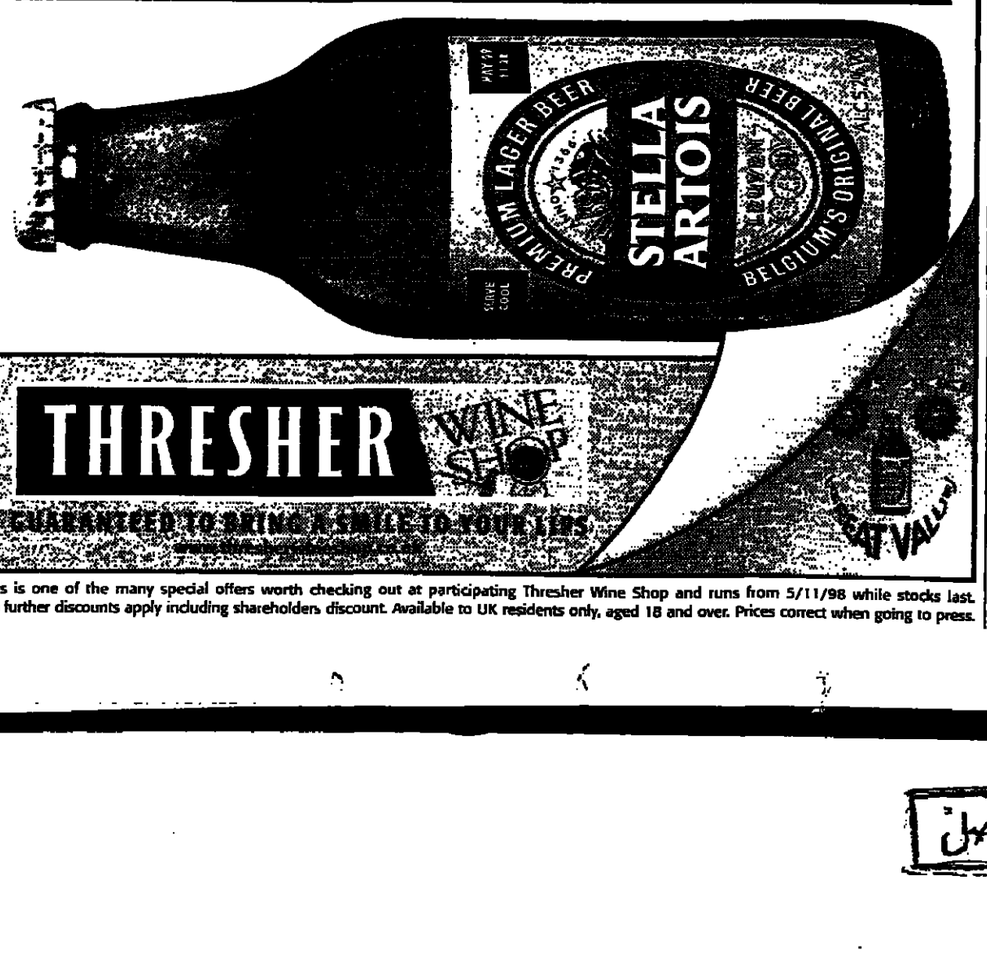
Isiah's relatives hope that his brother, Isaac, aged nine, will survive. A rescue helicopter found the two youngsters waist-deep in rubble on Sunday and took them to a nearby hospital, where Isaiah died.

"I am going to raise him," said his grandmother, Candida Morals, fighting back tears. "He's the only child left of my only daughter." — *Los Angeles Times.*



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Coast guards give up search for lost holiday schooner

AP in Miami

THE week-long search for a four-masted luxury schooner which disappeared when Hurricane Mitch hit the Caribbean was called off yesterday.

Contact was lost last Tuesday with the 282ft cruise ship Fantome, which had a British captain, Guyan March, and 30 crew on board.

A search by the United States coast guard and the Royal Navy off the Caribbean coasts of Belize, Guatemala and Honduras revealed no trace of the vessel.

The Fantome's last radio message said it was experiencing 115 mph winds and the ship was rolling heavily, according to officials from the ship's owner, Windjammer Barefoot Cruises.

Search crews found the first piece of debris from the Fantome on Sunday. A life raft and more life jackets were found on Monday.

As Mitch approached, Fantome had been ordered from the Honduran port of Omoa, north to Belize City, where it safely dropped off its passengers to be flown back to Miami.

The crew stayed on the ship, planning to head north, toward Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, to get away from Mitch. But the storm changed course and the ship was caught.



The Fantome, which is feared lost with 31 crew on board

News in brief

Climbdown in Anwar trial

ON THE fourth day of the trial of Malaysia's former deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, for corruption and sodomy, his defence lawyers forced a damaging admission from the chief of the country's special branch, *writes John Gittings in Hong Kong.*

Earlier in court Mohamad Said Awang had claimed that his branch had investigated Mr Anwar for "sexual misbehaviour" in 1992.

But he admitted yesterday that in a report sent to the prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, a year ago, he may have said that sex charges against Mr Anwar were politically motivated.

Mohamad Said also caused a sensation by admitting that he might lie if ordered to by the prime minister — even in court.

Islamists win court victory

A BERLIN court has given Islamic fundamentalists the right to organise and conduct religious education in the city's state schools in a controversial ruling, *writes Ian Traynor in Bonn.*

After more than a decade of feuding between Berlin's education authorities and Islamist groups classified as extremist by Germany's domestic intelligence service, the administrative appeals court ruled that nine organisations representing Turkish immigrants had the right to be viewed as a "religious community" and oversee religious education in the city's state schools.

The verdict was denounced by mainstream and secular Turkish immigrant leaders, who fear that fundamentalists will try to exert a stranglehold on the education of Berlin's 30,000 Turkish children.

Israeli row on Wye deal

THE Israeli cabinet was locked in heated argument last night over the terms negotiated by the prime minister, Binyamin Netanyau, at the Wye summit for the land-for-security agreement with the Palestinians, *writes David Sharrock in Gaza City.*

The accord was supposed to have come into effect three days ago but has been delayed by last-minute Israeli objections. It is expected to be passed today despite hardline rightwing opposition.

Meanwhile in Gaza, the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, had to return from meetings in Madrid by land from Egypt, after Israel again refused him permission to land his plane at the recently completed Gaza International Airport. It had been agreed at Wye that the airport would be allowed to open.

No third term for Yeltsin

RUSSIA'S highest court ruled yesterday that Boris Yeltsin cannot use a legal loophole to seek a third presidential term in 2000.

The ruling — combined with Yeltsin's fragile health — should encourage several leading political figures to gear up their presidential campaign preparations.

Mr Yeltsin has hinted he will not seek re-election when his current, second, term expires, and said he was satisfied with the ruling.

But because his first term began before the current constitution was adopted in 1993, aides have argued that it should not count toward the constitutional two-term limit. — *AP, Moscow.*

CASH ALWAYS TIED UP IN INVOICES?

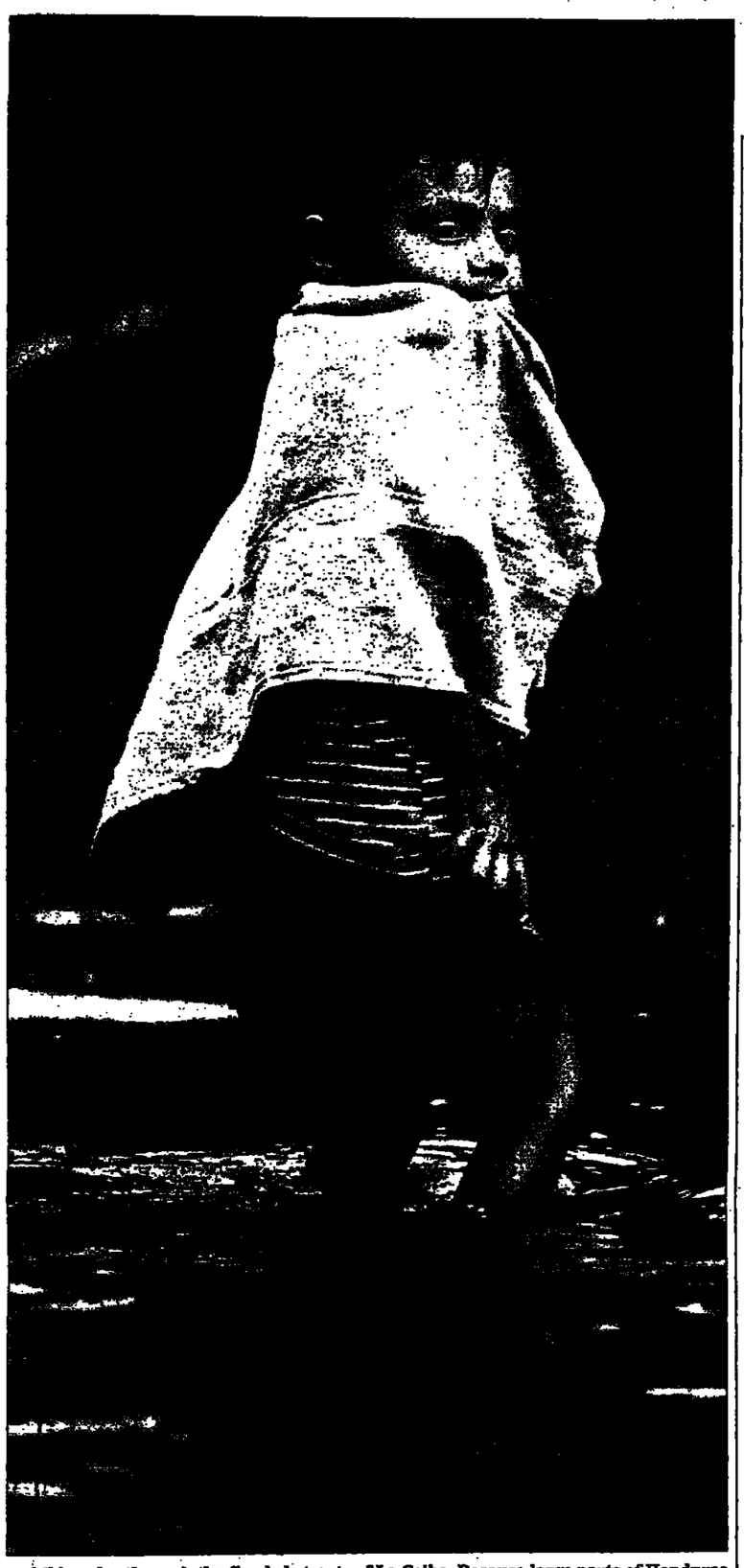
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Nation struggles to rebuild on a sea of mud



A child wades through the flooded streets of La Ceiba. Because large parts of Honduras are still cut off the final death toll is unclear PHOTOGRAPH: VICTOR GAIVANO

HONDURAS/On a dirt road at La Piramide, Phil Gunson witnesses apocalyptic scenes as a population fights to get back on its feet

THE 100ft-wide torrent of water that swept down the mountain snapped Honduras in two. What was once a bend in the two-lane, metalled road that winds through the pine-clad mountains separating the capital Tegucigalpa from the main ports on the Caribbean is now an immense chasm.

The road was the country's commercial backbone, the steady flow of trucks carrying everything from oil to groceries. Now the traffic has been replaced with a pathetic file of people laden with sacks and suitcases struggling across the slippery sides of the crater.

The scenes along the highway as it leaves Tegucigalpa for the north are apocalyptic. Hillsides where dozens of families once lived have been sliced away, burying victims under tons of rock and dirt.

"You see that bend in the river," said Sean Hawkey of the Irish volunteer organisation Apso, pointing to a couple of acres of flat land beside the Rio Choluteca. "That was once covered in houses."

Not a plank remains — it is as if the community had never existed. The statistics suddenly begin to make sense: 6,500 dead, 11,085 missing, almost 2 million injured.

Bulldozers work into the night attempting to fill the hole in the highway, which the minister of foreign co-operation, Moises Starkman, says "will be open in two or three days", allowing the country to begin the huge task of economic reconstruction. It seems a hopelessly optimistic timetable.

On a nearby hilltop, uniformed guards with shotguns and assault rifles are guarding a valuable cargo. With hundreds of thousands of people close to starvation, frozen chickens have become the equivalent of gold bullion.

> With thousands close to starvation, frozen chickens are the equivalent of gold bullion

A pistol at his hip, Jorge Pérez, a former army lieutenant, gazes unenthusiastically at what is now the only overland route between the country's two main cities — a rutted dirt track rapidly turning into a muddy swamp littered with trapped vehicles.

A hundred feet below us a Honduran Red Cross lorry is slewed across the track, almost blocking it. "It's taking up to three hours to get our pickups through," Mr Pérez said.

The Alcon food corporation is trying to keep its supply lines open by shuttling the frozen chickens by pickup from one refrigerated container lorry to another along the fast deteriorating track.

One overloaded vehicle became so embedded the driver had to escape through the window.

Mr Pérez says of the storms: "I lost my house in Tegucigalpa. The landslides took my wife's mother's house as well, and everything she had. But, thank God, the family is okay."

On Wednesday bodies were still being pulled from the mud in Tegucigalpa. Thirteen more victims, so badly decomposed they could not be identified, were quickly buried in a common grave.

Adrian Fitzgerald, Apso's field director, says many areas are still cut off, the reason for much of the confusion over the final death toll.

"The government emergency committee told us they'd had a report of about 150 people still clinging to trees in one part of the north," he said. "But when they finally got there, not one was left."

"We really don't know what the numbers are," Colonel Rene Osorio of the national emergency committee said. "There are places we still haven't reached."

The radio carries messages from one stricken area to another: "Will Monica Arellano please urgently contact her sister in Tegucigalpa" ... "The hospital at San Lorenzo lacks even the most basic medicines and is overwhelmed with injured people".

Tomas Restrepo, whose family owns a small business in San Pedro Sula, is desperate to reach them but his small pickup needs four-wheel-drive to negotiate the dirt road.

"I've had no contact with them for nearly a week," he said, as he pleaded for a tow. But the aid vehicle, heavily laden with food and medicines to take to the north, was in no position to help. Mr Restrepo eventually turned back.

> 'Some 150 people were said to be clinging to trees but rescuers found not one left'

Most people are simply unable to travel. Long queues of cars can be seen at all the capital's filling stations, and drivers are restricted to about a gallon and a half of petrol.

"The key is getting fuel into the cities," the United States ambassador, James Creagan, said. "The capital, instead of giving out aid to the north, needs aid itself."

But the ambassador does not believe the people will starve, arguing that the country has plenty of food. "Obviously, you've got to be able to move it," he said.

Aid workers, however, are frustrated. Although the supplies for the homeless and hungry are beginning to flow, the relief effort has been hampered by lack of co-ordination.

When fuel and food starts to reach Tegucigalpa "it will be a trickle", Mr Starkman said. "But this isn't going to be the end of Honduras."

He admits the situation could get ugly, with possible civil unrest. "What we have to do is to ensure the danger does not become a reality."

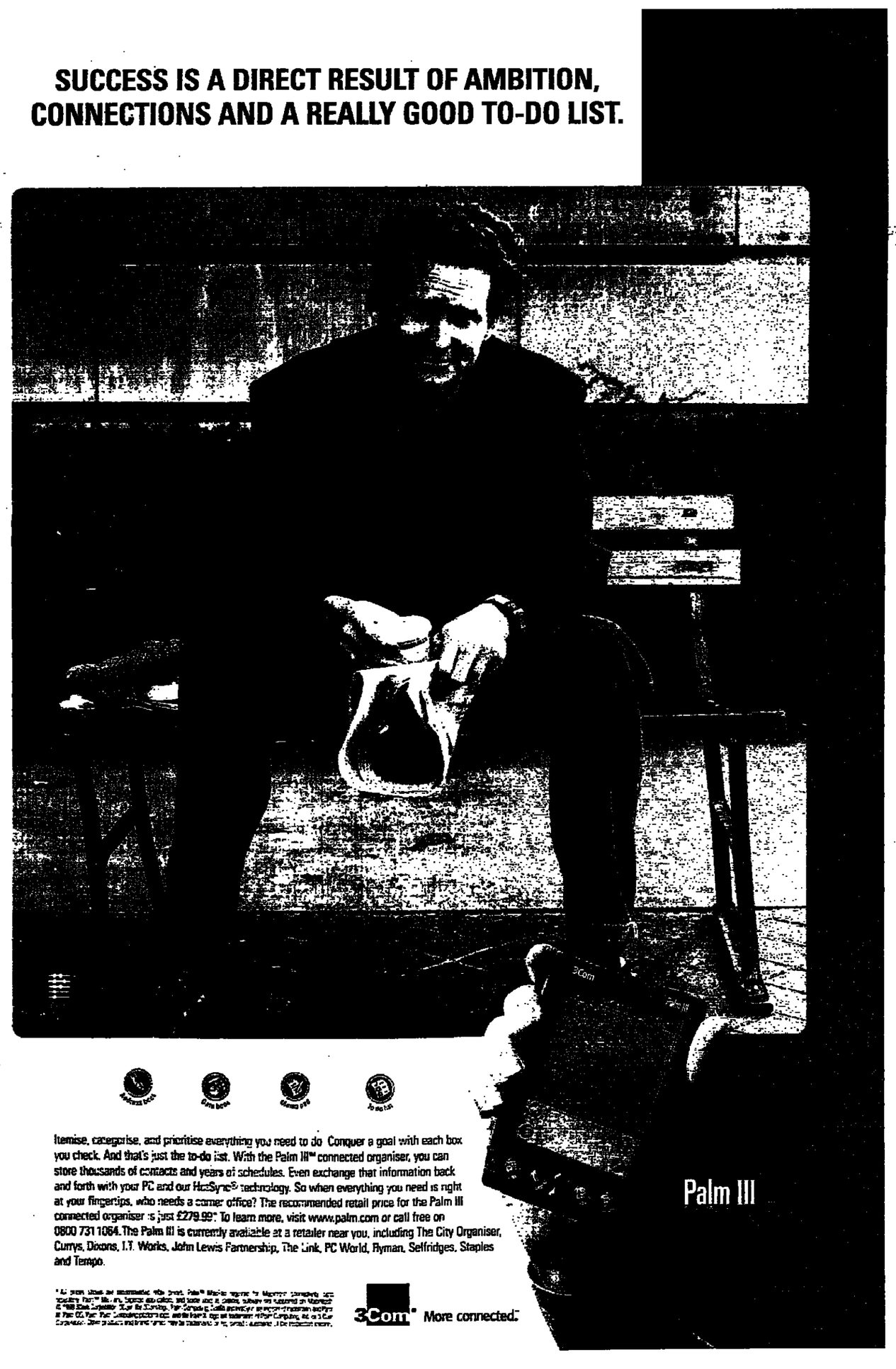
Officials say 60 per cent of the country's infrastructure has been destroyed. Standing on the dirt road at La Piramide, it is easy to believe the government's claim that 40 years of development have been wiped out.

The cost of getting Honduras back on its feet is put at a minimum of $2 billion, and voices are already being raised here to demand that the country's crippling, $4 billion foreign debt be wiped from the slate.

"From January to October this year, the government paid out $250 million in debt repayments," said Manuel Torres, a political and economic analyst.

"That's the equivalent of what is needed to repair the roads and bridges in Tegucigalpa. Churches, trade unions and many non-governmental organisations believe the debt should be turned into a reconstruction fund."

As yet, however, the government has given no indication that it is likely to take this approach.



Jones lawyers quit case as Clinton turns tough

Martin Kettle in Washington

THE lawyers representing Paula Jones in her long-running sexual harassment suit against President Bill Clinton have become so frustrated with her reluctance to settle the case that they are throwing in their hand.

Mrs Jones's current lawyers, drawn from a firm in Dallas and the rightwing Rutherford Institute in Virginia, told her on Tuesday night that they will quit as soon as the federal appeals court rules on whether her claims against Mr Clinton can be reinstated. A decision is expected next month.

The breach came as negotiations between the Clinton and Jones lawyers broke down again yesterday, with each side rejecting the other's settlement proposal. The White House indicated privately that the president is now less interested in a deal in the light of this week's strong Democratic showing in the mid-term elections.

Mrs Jones claims Mr Clinton invited her to a Little Rock hotel room in 1991, before he became president, and asked for oral sex. Mrs Jones says her career as a state employee suffered as a result of her refusal. The case was dismissed by an Arkansas court in April.

In telephone discussions between the rival legal teams yesterday, Mrs Jones's lawyers offered to settle the case in return for $950,000 (about £600,000) from Mr Clinton, in addition to the $1 million already offered to her by the idiosyncratic New York millionaire Abe Hirschfeld. That offer was immediately rejected by the president's lawyers, whose $700,000 counter-offer was turned down by the Jones team.

> The president is less interested in a deal after the mid-term elections

This latest failure to settle signals a more uncompromising stance by Mr Clinton, who is under less political pressure to get the case out of the way as a result of Tuesday's elections, and suggests that Mrs Jones may have missed her moment to secure a cash settlement. Even if Mrs Jones succeeds in her appeal, her legal costs now exceed anything she may win either in or out of court.

Mrs Jones's problems are intensified by the parting of ways with her lawyers. This is the second time that lawyers acting for her have decided that they have had enough of her on-off attitude towards potential settlement deals.

In September 1997, Mrs Jones balked at a $700,000 settlement negotiated between her then lawyers, Joseph Cammarata and Gilbert Davis, and Mr Clinton's attorney Robert Bennett because the president refused to offer an apology. Mr Cammarata and Mr Davis withdrew from the case.

Mrs Jones is now losing the Dallas firm of Rader, Fisher, Campbell and Pyke which has represented her with John Whitehead of the Rutherford Institute for the past 14 months.

The two attorneys who have been most involved, Donovan Campbell and James Fisher, have become frustrated with Mrs Jones's inconsistent instructions.

At the heart of the dispute is the influence exerted over their client by her husband Stephen Jones and her media adviser Susan Carpenter McMillan, both of whom are encouraging Mrs Jones to hold out for a bigger deal.

Mr Campbell took on the appeal on condition that Mrs McMillan was no longer involved. After Mrs McMillan resumed her public role as Mrs Jones's adviser in September, Mr Campbell handed the case to Mr Fisher. Mrs Jones then hired Mrs McMillan's husband, who is also a lawyer, to represent her in negotiations with her other attorneys.

The event which appears to have precipitated the latest breach was a highly publicised meeting between Mrs Jones and Mr Hirschfeld in Washington last weekend.



Paula Jones's lawyers are fed up with her on-off attitude towards a deal and her legal fees may exceed any settlement

Military spy put on ice begins to turn up the heat on France

Details are emerging of the secret life of Major Pierre Bunel and why he betrayed Nato to the Serbs. **Jon Henley** reports in Paris

HE IS 46 years old, stocky, bespectacled, unremarkable. Army colleagues describe him as a gifted intelligence specialist, if a touch pompous; an outstanding linguist, prone perhaps to arrogance. It may be significant that most officers who graduated with him from France's elite Saint Cyr military academy in 1975 have since made colonel. Pierre-Henri Bunel is still a major.

Today, Maj Bunel is in La Santé jail in Paris, accused of spying. He has admitted passing to Belgrade secret documents detailing the air strikes Nato planned last month to force the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, to withdraw Serb forces from Kosovo and end the persecution of the ethnic Albanian population.

His case is striking, not only because he attempted to derail the West's efforts to halt another Balkan bloodbath. It provides further confirmation of a long-held belief in Washington and London that the French military cannot be trusted when it comes to dealing with the Serbs.

Attached to France's 40-strong Nato delegation in Brussels since mid-1996, Maj Bunel was head of personal staff to its senior military adviser, General Pierre Wiroth. He had access to a great deal of classified Nato information and in four meetings between July and October this year he gave much of it to a colonel in the Serbian army intelligence service, Jovan Milanovic.

According to an account of his interrogation last week by the DST French counter-intelligence service, obtained by Le Monde, Maj Bunel first met his handler in a Serb restaurant in Brussels. In a lengthy second meeting at Col Milanovic's home, he answered questions about "the number of planes to be used in air strikes, their dates, the location and nature of the targets selected by Nato, and the nature of a possible deployment of ground forces in Kosovo".

In the pair's final meeting on October 1, Maj Bunel handed over a 25-page copy of the operational orders for an attack — a detailed outline of "the type of operation planned, the chain of command and the decision-making process".

He told the DST that he had acted alone, out of sympathy for the Serb cause. The DST report concluded he also had "an ambition to play an important role in resolving an international crisis, and an ambiguous attraction for the world of intelligence".

But there is much that is odd about French reaction to his arrest. The defence minister, Alain Richard, and the foreign minister, Hubert Vedrine, while describing the incident as "deeply regrettable" and "an act of treason", said the information passed to the Serbs could not have endangered the planned air strikes. That hardly accords with the DST's account.

The DST report also contradicts official statements that Maj Bunel had no undercover training, noting that after working as an Arab and English interpreter in the Gulf war, he worked in intelligence in Bosnia in 1996, and was rewarded with the Legion of Honour.

Finally, the DST account stresses that his activities were uncovered by United States counter-intelligence, whereas the official Paris line is that French military intelligence unmasked him.

While the scandal has prompted Mr Vedrine, General Philippe Morillon, the former commander of United Nations peacekeeping forces in Bosnia in 1992-93, and the prime minister, Lionel Jospin, to repeat public denials that Paris harbours any pro-Serbian bias, others could be forgiven for thinking otherwise.

The relationship between the two countries dates back to the first world war, when the French navy saved the remnants of the Serb army after its long and heroic retreat. President de Gaulle always refused to visit Josip Tito's Yugoslavia because Tito had ordered the execution of Drazan Mihallovic, the Serb anti-communist resistance leader who had studied with De Gaulle in Paris.

Years later, President François Mitterrand declared: "France will never be anti-Serb". And in 1994, after what many in the French elite considered the premature recognition of Croatia and Slovenia by Germany, a retired French general, Pierre-Marie Gallois, wrote to Radovan Karadic, the then Bosnian Serb leader, saying he regretted his "incapacity to stand beside your soldiers in the battle you are fighting in the name of our common cause — the right of nations to reject German imperialism".

The French commander of UN forces in Sarajevo, General Jean-René Bachelet, was recalled to Paris a year later for criticising the Dayton peace accords, saying they forced the Serbian population "to choose between the suitcase and the coffin". Then last December Mr Richard, called the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in The Hague a "show court", prompting the tribunal's chief prosecutor to retort that indicted war criminals felt "completely safe in the French sector".

Finally, this summer, French authorities recalled Major Hervé Gourmelon from Bosnia, after well-documented reports from Washington that his frequent secret contacts with Mr Karadzic had forced Nato to abort an imminent mission to arrest the former Serb leader. A subsequent French investigation cleared Maj Gourmelon of serious wrongdoing.

Major Bunel could have been acting simply out of bitterness at a long-delayed promotion.

But despite the public protestations of French politicians and the firmness towards Serbia shown by President Jacques Chirac, his action can only tarnish France's already dubious reputation in former Yugoslavia.



Pierre-Henri Bunel, pictured in Saudi Arabia in 1990, where he worked as an Arabic and English interpreter during the Gulf war

PHOTOGRAPH: PASCAL GUYOT

Anti-abortion veteran hunted over shooting

Michael Ellison in New York

A MAN nicknamed Atomic Dog was being sought last night in the hunt for the killer of a doctor who performed abortions.

James Kopp, an aggressive anti-abortion campaigner, is thought to have last been sighted jogging in the affluent suburb of Buffalo, west New York state, where Dr Barnett Slepian was shot dead in his home two weeks ago by a single sniper's bullet.

"We don't know where he is," Bernard Tolbert, an FBI agent, said. "We are looking for him everywhere we can."

Mr Kopp is being sought as a material witness rather than a suspect in the killing, the fourth attack in as many years on doctors in Canada and New York State.

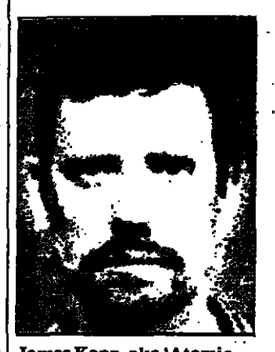
His black Chevrolet Cavalier was spotted several times in Amherst, on the outskirts of Buffalo, in the weeks before Dr Slepian was killed. Other than issuing a photograph of the 44-year-old from Vermont, investigators revealed few details about Mr Kopp.

He is thought to be a footloose campaigner who moves around the United States joining increasingly tense protests ouside abortion clinics. One of his several arrests came in Atlanta in 1988 when there were huge demonstrations at the time of the Democratic Party national convention. His soubriquet Atomic Dog, investigators say, links him to the violent fringe of the anti-abortion movement.

The so-called Army of God has claimed responsibility for attacks such as the bombing of an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, in which an off-duty policeman was killed earlier this year.

The group has issued a manual which gives advice on attacking clinics and making plastic explosives. The handbook lists those devoted to halting abortions and includes Atomic Dog in the thanks section.

Mr Kopp's last known address was in St Albans, Vermont, where he stayed as the guest of anti-abortion activists who tried to shut down two abortion clinics eight years ago. The couple's son said yesterday that Mr Kopp was a "really nice guy" who did odd jobs around the house in lieu of rent.



James Kopp, aka 'Atomic Dog': Police think he can help catch doctor's killer

"The focus of his life was the anti-abortion movement," said the 20-year-old shipping clerk. "He was known among these people as Atomic Dog."

A doctor in the Buffalo area was threatened in a telephone call to a Canadian newspaper a week after Dr Slepian's murder. The caller was thought to be a man who had left a poster of Dr Slepian with the words Jew and Killer scrawled across it in a police station the day before.

Nasa is over the moon with Glenn

Julian Borger in Washington

WHEN the crew of the Discovery shuttle returns to earth tomorrow, Nasa's hierarchy will fête one of the most successful missions in years. In only nine days the astronauts have inspired the media's rediscovery of space.

John Glenn's second venture into the cosmos has brought glamour to the routine of the Shuttle programme, whose only significant publicity had been disasterous — the Challenger explosion in 1986.

The veteran astronaut and senator, aged 77, has been a prime-time television fixture, floating good-naturedly in front of the cameras, charming the nation with old-fashioned folksy humility, urging Americans to vote, and on Wednesday night joking with the TV comedian, Jay Leno, on the Tonight Show.

Earthbound politicians have been queuing to bask in the Glenn feel-good factor.

Yesterday he beamed some of it down in a chat with Vice-President Al Gore, warming up for his presidential campaign.

The on-camera bonhomie, 343 miles above earth, is far more important to Nasa than the results of the ageing-in-space experiments conducted by Mr Glenn.

What really counts is Nasa's appeal for extra funding for its bid to build a space station with the Russians, starting on November 20. As Russia is having severe problems funding its part of the project, Nasa desperately needs a sympathetic Congress.

Mr Glenn did his part during a press conference from space yesterday, saying: "I proposed we double Nasa's budget over the next four-year period when I was still there in Washington and I think that's something we should be working toward, because the programme is so valuable."

The flight commander, Colonel Curtis Brown, has been overshadowed by the space legend, and it showed on the Tonight Show on Wednesday night. Mr Leno asked whether Mr Glenn kept telling the shuttle crew "how tough it was in the old days, how cramped it was, how small it was, how lucky you young punks are?"

"Only when he's awake," Colonel Brown shot back.

UN war crimes team barred from entering Kosovo



Louise Arbour (left) and Gabrielle Kirk McDonald of the war crimes tribunal criticise Yugoslavia's refusal to co-operate

Stephen Bates in Brussels

A FRESH clash between the government of the Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic and the United Nations Security Council loomed last night as prosecutors from the International War Crimes tribunal in The Hague were denied visas to launch an investigation into alleged atrocities in Kosovo.

A team of 12 investigators, headed by the chief UN war crimes prosecutor, the Canadian lawyer Louise Arbour, had been due to fly to Belgrade today before going to Kosovo to examine claims of mass murders including summary executions, wanton destruction and plundering of the province.

Instead Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, the US president of the tribunal, was angrily complaining to the Security Council last night that its mandate was being wilfully blocked by the Serb regime.

"This conduct is a further example of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's utter disregard for the norms of the international community," she said.

"Essentially it has become a rogue state, one that holds the international rule of law in contempt...

"It is clear to me that I have an obligation, now that the prosecutor has reported non-compliance, to bring this matter to the Security Council."

The tribunal applied for visas three weeks ago. It was told by the Yugoslav embassy in The Hague only on Wednesday night that the group could visit Belgrade, but would not be granted access to Kosovo. Ms Arbour told a press conference:

"I expect to be granted unimpeded, unfettered access to Kosovo as I have requested. My position is supported by several Security Council resolutions."

The block on access is the first challenge to the UN's authority since Mr Milosevic backed down three weeks ago in the face of the threat of Nato air strikes and agreed to reduce troop levels in Kosovo. It has been estimated that up to 300,000 ethnic Albanians have been made refugees during this year's campaign in the province by Yugoslav armed forces and police.

Last week Zoran Knezevic, Yugoslavia's justice minister, claimed: "The Hague tribunal has no place in Kosovo." He added that access would only be granted to make the international community "better acquainted" with the situation there.

A Tribunal spokesman said: "This is a direct challenge not only to us but to the Security Council."

Christian Jelen

In defence of the republic

FROM time to time one comes across a journalist who is passionate about ideas and pre-occupied by something that renders him indignant. Such a journalist was Christian Jelen, who has died aged 60.

The subjects which made him angry usually involved duplicity along with a failure to understand. The first concerned the French Communist Party (PCF) and certain socialists, who knew that there was much that was abhorrent in the Soviet Union but affected not to know. This was duplicity. But they also failed to understand the nature of Stalinism; there was an absence of analysis, an inability to assess. Thus Jelen had to denounce a blindness that was at once deliberate and involuntary.

Among the other topics that aroused him was racialism, and most recently what he called "communitarianism," the result of well-meaning actions on the part of those who wish to accommodate immigrants, but who, through an enthusiasm for multi-culturalism are undermining the French idea of the nation.

Jelen was particularly interested in questions of immigration since he was the son of a Polish couple who had settled in France during the 1930s. He was born in 1938 and lived in Paris. Having been educated at a commercial college, he spent his life in publishing and journalism. He worked for the three most important weekly papers, Le Nouvel Observateur, L'Express and, for the last 10 years, Le Point. He also wrote some 12 books.

One of his first investigations was into the Kravchenko affair. Kravchenko, whose book, *I Chose Freedom*, published in France in 1947, had sold half a million copies, sued a French communist paper in 1949. His attack on Stalinist Russia and its concentration camps had supposedly been manufactured in the United States and was not the product of a disillusioned refugee from the Soviet Union. What interested Jelen in this legal battle (which ended in a victory for Kravchenko) was the manner in which the supporters of Stalin's Russia made an equation between the US and Hitler, and between France and the Soviet Union.

What interested him also was the silence of the leading French intellectuals. Sartre's review of Kravchenko's book pointed out that there were concentration camps in other countries, such as Greece; the left-wing Catholics maintained that the Soviet communists were only following in the Tsarist tradition.

On immigration Jelen spoke with conviction and feeling. He recalled that when his father arrived in Paris, he had to find work or face starvation: there was no social security available for him. Nowadays there would: that was progress. But his parents taught him that he had to be French, which created problems for him. He was ashamed of the accents in his parents' spoken French; he did not like it when Polish cooking was praised. Why couldn't his grandmother be famous for her steak and chips? And his friend at school, who was of Italian origin, had been told by his parents that he should not be openly jubilant when Italian cyclists such as Bartali and Coppi won the Tour de France.

Thus certain constraints were accepted, and this was not tyranny: it was the voluntary recognition of the nation-state of France where the immigrants lived. The alternative, as is now evident, is multi-culturalism. This, Jelen argued, could be a valid argument against the tyranny of a minority — such as the whites in South Africa — but when minorities were protected by the state, there was no reason why the fragmentation of culture should stop.

> Jelen's anxieties concerned racial and religious persecution

Naturally, he had much to say about the large Muslim population in France. His anxieties concerned racial and religious persecution, against which there were laws. But he was also concerned about the decision to allow Muslim girls to wear headscarves in state schools (with few exceptions). The argument in favour of this was that it enabled girls from Muslim families to enter the mainstream of French society and not remain cloistered in the family home. But it also meant, according to Jelen, a complete reversal of French national values. The republican model would no longer exist. It depended on the school.

Similarly, the discovery by the distinguished historian, Jacques Le Goff, that in a certain number of lycées, pupils from immigrant societies were excused from studying French history, deeply shocked Jelen. France, as the model of integration, was disappearing. He suggested that France imploding under the menace of multi-culturalism would become a France of antagonisms and social conflict.

Such views were never popular. But Jelen, who carried out much of his research in the towns and suburbs concerned, dismissed political correctness. History for him was the history of mentalities. Journalism was the attack on that which was false. Jelen, who leaves a wife and two children, will be greatly missed.

Douglas Johnson

Christian Jelen, journalist and author, born August 23, 1938; died October 25, 1998



A family affair . . . Charlie Foxx and his sister Inez on stage — 'instantly identifiable by the evocative power of their big hit song' REDFERNS

Charlie Foxx

Diamond rings and mockingbirds

CHARLIE FOXX, who has died aged 58, and his sister, Inez, were a popular duet on the American rhythm and blues scene of the 1960s, occupying roughly the same sector of the African-American entertainment business as Mickey and Sylvia, of *Love Is Strange* fame, or Ike and Tina Turner, whom they rather resembled. Like the Turners, too, they made one recording that both instantly identifies them and has steadily increased in evocative power.

Mockingbird, released in 1963, had a first life entirely different from Ike and Tina's *River Deep, Mountain High* (1966), being successful in the United States, where it reached the Top 10, but attracting only a specialised audience in Britain. More than three decades later, however, both songs bask in the perpetual sunlight shining on the paddock where old pop warhorses graze and grow fat on the income from re-issues, movie soundtracks and other residuals.

The two songs have something else in common: a link with childhood. *River Deep* begins with a child's rag doll, while *Mockingbird*'s nursery-rhyme lyrics and call-and-response structure betray its origin as a traditional children's playground song. The connection has quite often generated successful novelty records, such as Shirley Ellis's *The Clapping Song*, or indeed Bo Diddley's *Bo Diddley*, which a folklorist would probably classify as a variant text of the *Mockingbird* motif.

Charlie Foxx was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he and Inez, five years his junior, sang in gospel choirs and performed in local clubs. They moved to New York in 1963 and soon signed with Juggy Murray's Sue Records — yet another connection with Ike and Tina Turner, whose hit record, *A Fool In Love*, was on that label. *Mockingbird* was initially released under Inez's name, but subsequent records, like *Hi Diddle Diddle* and *Hummingbird*, gave brother and sister a joint credit.

Though *Mockingbird* made no impression on the British pop chart and its successor the following year, *Hurt By Love*, was only a minor hit, the Foxxes had a significant underground following in Britain and were able to tour here twice in 1964, on their second visit joining a bill headed by the Rolling Stones. Later records, however, whether for Sue or Dynamo, had only fleeting success in the US and none elsewhere.

By 1968 Charlie Foxx had begun to interest himself in record production and had worked with Jerry Williams on Gene Pitney's *She's A Heartbreaker*; he would continue to produce obscure but estimable soul records. The following year he and Inez ended their professional association, just as a re-released *Mockingbird* was squawking once more in the mid-section of the British charts. The song, as it proved, simply would not go away. In 1974 its amicable dialogue was recreated by Carly Simon and James Taylor, and in 1982 by the British group, the Belle Stars.

It periodically turns up, too, in the background of sixties-themed movies. When Charlie and Inez were honoured at a 1995 Hollywood awards ceremony by the Rhythm 'n' Blues Foundation, it was surely for that one impervious anthem, which they duly sang to a standing ovation.

Foxx leaves a wife and a son.

Tony Russell

Charlie Foxx, singer, guitarist, songwriter and record producer, born October 29, 1939; died September 18, 1998

Paul Baker

The good medicine man

PAUL BAKER, who has died aged 60, used the unlikely vehicle of pharmacy to work quietly but effectively for social change. For more than a decade he ran a chemist's shop on the deprived Buttershaw estate in Bradford, becoming a friend and, in some cases, a life-saver of those at the bottom of society's heap.

With his wife, Maureen, he also took his talents abroad. In the 1970s the couple played a key part in establishing a collective drugs purchasing policy for Zambia. More recently, Baker worked with the World Health Organisation in Ethiopia, rebuilding pharmaceutical services after the Eritrean war.

None of this was apparent in the mild-mannered figure in a white coat who slipped in and out of the dispensing room to bid customers good day. Baker was happiest getting on with the practical side without a fuss. As part of his retirement, he had negotiated an ordinary assistant pharmacist's job for a few days a week at a psychiatric hospital near Leeds.

Baker was born in Chapeltown, Leeds, to a Jewish family, renouncing the faith early on in favour of a carefully thought-out secular humanism. He studied pharmacy at Manchester and Liverpool, before meeting Maureen at a CND rally and uniting his serious radicalism with her Irish fizz.



Baker . . . secular humanist

After a happy spell at a Leeds brewery, which sacked him after he told the managing director, "You are the man, the very fine man, who waters the workers' beer", he went on the road as a pharmaceutical rep. Work for Glaxo and other drug companies taught him much about the trade which he later used to good effect on Buttershaw and in Zambia.

His work in Africa brought medicines within reach of ordinary Zambians and Ethiopians on an unprecedented scale and bolstered the country's governments in their dealings with drug multinationals. In Bradford, he developed a particular skill in responsibly dispensing methodone to heroin addicts, combining the drug with patient attempts to befriend his customers and help them by putting his humanist beliefs into practice.

With Maureen, herself a well-known community worker in West Yorkshire, Baker was a determined campaigner against racism, often winning battles through humour and charm. A devotee of rugby league and cricket, as well as poetry and painting, he spent much time with Maureen, who survives him, as do their two daughters, son and four grandchildren.

Martin Wainwright

Paul Baker, pharmacist and social reformer, born December 30, 1937; died November 1, 1998

Ajit

Kill 'em with style

THE Indian actor Ajit, who has died at the age of 76, was Bollywood's favourite villain. Casting aside old stereotypes, he developed an impressive line in charming, but ruthless, psychopaths. He freed his characters of their outward ferocity, replacing it with a human face which laughed, talked and cracked jokes. His histrionics drove home the point that a hardened criminal could look and behave like anyone on the street.

Ajit's most influential role came playing a ruthless killer called Teja in Prakash Mehra's 1973 film *Zanjeer* (The Chain). Its box office success unleashed a spate of similar roles — in Nassir Hussain's *Yaadon Ki Baraat* (Procession of Memories), Chand's *Dharma* and Romanand Sagar's *Charas* (Cannabis).

In all these productions Ajit played an evil killer, completely at ease with himself and the world. Audiences loved the way he joked, played billiards and lounged around swimming pools surrounded by beautiful girls. Much of his later work was typical Bollywood pap, but audiences continued to follow the career of their favourite, cigar-smoking, underworld don.

VERY few in Ajit's 50-year career knew that his real name was Hamid Ali Khan, that he hailed from a respectable Pathan family in Hyderabad, or that several generations of his family had served in the British Army. Indeed his father, Bashir Ali Khan, had wanted his son to follow in the family footsteps. Instead, the young man ran away with 113 rupees (barely £2) to try his luck in films.

Ajit got his first lead role in 1950 in K Amarnath's *Beqasoor* (Innocent), opposite Madhubala. Ten years later, he landed the part of Durjan Singh, a faithful Hindu soldier of Prince Salim, in the K Asif classic *Mughal-E-Azam* (The Emperor of the Mughals), generally regarded as India's best scripted historical drama. Two of his many films in the next decade — P L Santoshi's *Opera House* (1961) and T Prakash Rao's *Sooraj* (Sun, 1966), were big hits, but it was not until 1973 and *Zanjeer* that he found his real home as a character.

During his career Ajit was forced to perform many stunts, and he often recalled how his life had been saved by sheer luck. "I was going upstairs with a tiger in a lift when the tiger's tail got stuck in between the doors. With the roar I froze and thought that was the end. Thank Allah, someone opened the door. It took me time to believe I was alive".

In the early 1980s a severe heart problem forced Ajit to end his career. After undergoing a bypass operation he retired to Hyderabad, though he later made occasional appearances in F Siddiqui's *Jigar* (Dear, 1992) and Dev Anand's *Gangster* (1994).

Ajit married an Englishwoman, Gwendalyn Rita De Monte, in 1952. It didn't work and he married again, this time to a traditional Muslim. A smuggler and an underworld don on the screen, he remained in real life a gentleman and a devout Muslim. His typical dialogue delivery created famous Ajit jokes, which regularly appeared in newspapers and magazines, and are still updated on the Internet each day. He is survived by his wife and three sons.

Lalit Mohan Joshi

Ajit (Hamid Ali Khan), actor, born January 27, 1922; died October 21, 1998



Hooray for Bollywood . . . Ajit with leading lady in the 1950s

Birthdays

Dr James Barber, political scientist, 67; **Prof Lord Bauer**, economist, 83; **James Bowman**, counter-tenor, 57; **Frank Carson**, comedian, 72; **Colin Christopher**, trades unionist, 66; **Ray Coniff**, songwriter, 82; **Sally Field**, film actress, 52; **Dr Keith Griffin**, economist, 60; **Nigel Havers**, actor, 49; **Bernat Klein**, designer, 76; **Stephen Ladyman**, Labour MP, 46; **Mark McCormack**, sports promoter, 68; **Leonard Miall**, historian, 84; **David Montgomery**, chief executive, Mirror Group Newspapers, 50; **Mike Nichols**, film and theatre director, 67; **Susie Orbach**, psychotherapist, 52; **Amanda Popham**, ceramic artist, 44; **P J Proby**, rock singer, 60; **Gen Sir David Ramsbotham**, chief inspector of prisons, 64; **Prof Sir Martin Roth**, psychiatrist, 81; **Ron Saunders**, football manager, 66.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

VICTIM SUPPORT has asked us to make its function clear to readers who may have noted a reference to the organisation in a Letter to the Editor about Ron Davies, published on page 19, November 3, in which the writer said, "the Victim Support panel disallowed certain items of compensation . . ." Victim Support is a national charity which offers help to more than a million victims of crime each year, but it is not itself responsible for paying compensation to victims of crime. Victims of violent crime can apply for an award from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, which is a government agency. Victim Support can help individuals making claims, but is in no way responsible for the granting of awards or for any conditions applied. Any victim or witness seeking help or information can call the Victim Support-line on 0845 3030900.

IN AN ARTICLE about parents who take illegal drugs, page 7, G2, November 4, we referred to the need "to raise £380 a day to score a gramme of heroin". That should have been £80.

SIR GEORG SOLTI accidentally became Lord Solti in a caption on page 21, Friday Review, October 23.

READERS who thought they saw the same Austin cartoon on page 1 on successive days, yesterday and the day before, did. Sorry about that.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Death Notices

LANDELLS. Professor John Wingrave, O.B.E., aged 87 years, died on 3rd November 1998, at St George's Hospital, London, after a short illness. A fulfilling medical career over 6 decades, mainly at the London Hospital Medical College, culminating with a joyful post-retirement 18 years at the re-opened University of Addis Abeba, Ethiopia (1978-1994). Funeral at the North East Surrey Crematorium on Thursday 12th November 1998 at 2pm. Donations, if desired, to the Hamlin Churchill Childbirth Injury Trust (Dr Catherine Hamlin's Fistula Hospital, Addis Ababa.) c/o W.A. Trowbove, 115 Carshalton Road, Sutton, SM1 4RL. 0181 642 8211.

MALONEY. Paul David Andrew, aged 34 years, our first son, left this life peacefully at Wigan and Leigh Hospice on November 4th 1998. His mum, Veronica, dad, Jim, his brother Christopher and all his family and friends will always feel his loss. Funeral details from Edwards, Funeral Directors, Holmwood, Dicconson Terrace, Wigan 01942 821215

SEWARD. Paul, his grieving friends and family the world over regret to announce his untimely death in Leeds, aged 44 on Wednesday 3rd November from heart failure. His funeral will be held on Monday 9th November 1998, 1pm at St. Michael's Parish Church, Headingley, followed by interment at Lawnswood Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations to the National AIDS Trust or Christian Aid. Blessed are the cracked for they shall let in the light.

STJERNSTEDT. Rosemary, funeral at The Chapel of Rest in Dinas Mawddwy on Monday 9th November at 11am. Burial at Aberdovey Cemetery at 12pm.

In Memoriam

GOLBY, Alan. A beautiful man, husband, father of Vanessa, Georgia and Edmund and friend to many. We miss you. Linda.

Births

ROBINSON-MINERS, Joseph, b.26th October 1998 to Caroline and Nick. Has made two lives very much happier.

Birthdays

WARBURTON. Harry, Happy 88th Birthday.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4707 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

A Country Diary

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: After 10 years at The Droppings we have moved to a nice bit of medieval stone in Tetbury. But we will have an ongoing interest in the Herdwick flock, most of which will now be grazing around Woodchester Mansion — the unfinished country house, abandoned more than a century ago. The house, which lies in a deep fold below Nympsfield, is surrounded by grazing land now owned by the National Trust. We left a small number of animals, including Miss Piggy and Tiggywinkle (both young ewes), at Upper Cam to keep the grass down, but the main group of adult ewes and the ram, Tiny Willie, were loaded into a trailer before our move. If you stop in a National Trust holiday cottage — and I would recommend such an adventure — notices often tell you that the carpets are made from the wool of Herdwick sheep. So you can see why the local trust representative was pleased to accept our flock. I imagine that by this time of autumn Tiny Willie will have started his charm offensive on the ewes as they come into season. So spring lambs ought to be included in the package for visitors to Woodchester Mansion next April.

COLIN LUCKHURST

Interest rate change

Allied Irish Bank (GB) announces that with effect from close of business on 5 November 1998 its Base Rate was decreased from 7.25% to 6.75% pa.

Allied Irish Bank (GB)
Bankcentre, Belmont Road
Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1SA.
Telephone: (01895) 272222

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Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

THE Diary has admired Andrew Mackay, the anarcho-satirist who moonlights as Tory Northern Ireland spokesman, ever since he chose the week of the Stormont talks for a safari holiday in Namibia. A day after Sheila Cassidy wrote here of being tortured by Pinochet, what a treat, then, to receive a copy of Andrew's letter in the Birmingham Post on May 9, 1976. "We appear to have no proof of torture except the young lady's word," wrote the then parliamentary candidate for Stachford, rueing the recall of our ambassador from Santiago, "and I have not seen any medical evidence which could corroborate her harrowing story." My colleague Simon Bowers rings for a chat. "Who is this woman?" asks Andrew. We explain. "I've written 30,000 letters since. I can't remember every word I wrote." We'll refresh you. "I'm not remotely interested." Simon reads it anyway. "I stand by my comments made at the time," he says. Were you 14 when you wrote it? "What?" Well, it might be a forgivable outburst from a 14-year-old. "That's crass and stupid," says Andrew. "There's no point continuing this conversation." What a talent. William Hague richly deserves him.

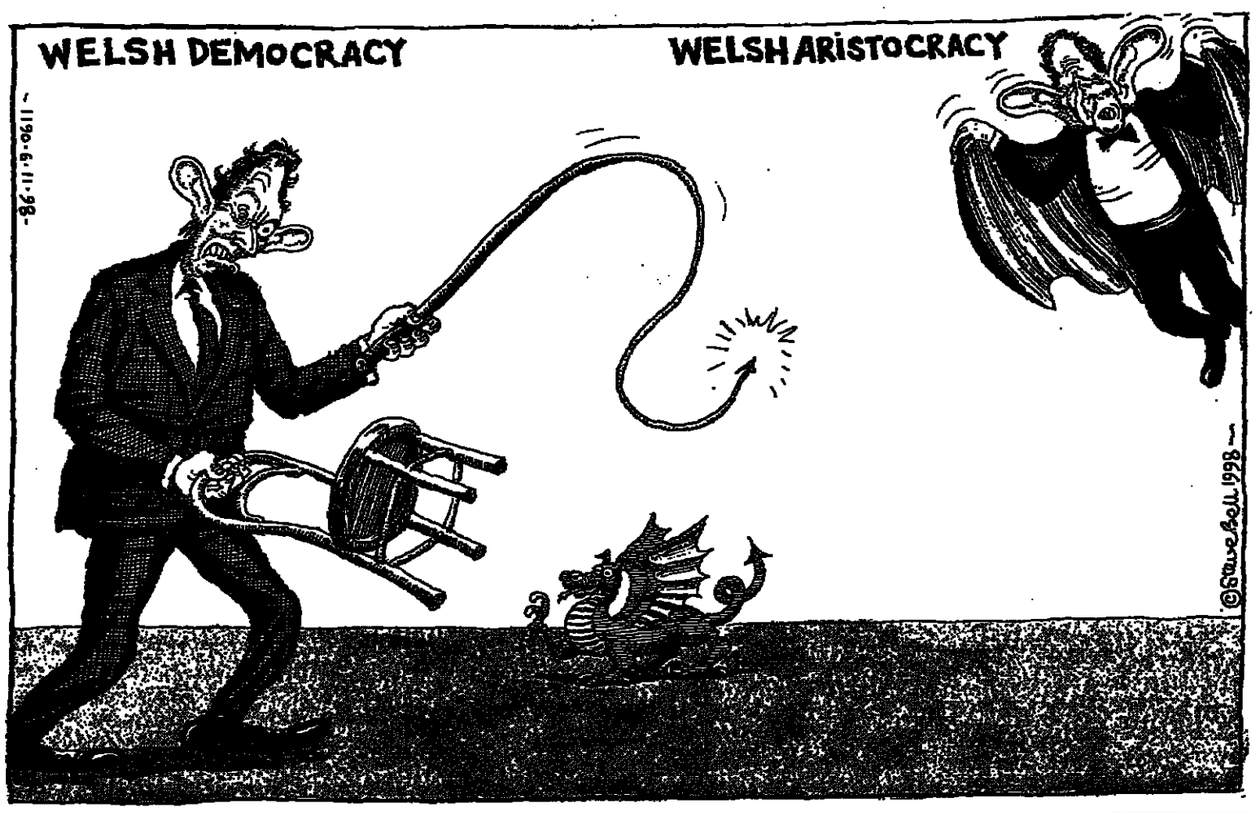
ANOTHER PR triumph for the BBC. After a not entirely brilliant month (the Mandelson edict being but the latest fiasco), management yesterday sought to raise staff morale from its historic low with a letter to BBC news staff all the way up to executive producers. It explained that times are hard, money is tight, management proliferation blah blah blah . . . and would they all please, please sod off out of it (or "take early redundancy"). "The timing's terrific, and there's a real buzz about the place now," says a senior news figure. "It's the buzz of the chainsaw coming to lop off our heads."

SEVERAL papers carried both adverts for Marks & Spencer clothes and news of the firm's difficulties on Wednesday. However, only the Independent had the wit to put the advert on page six, and the story ("Has M&S lost its way in the High Street?") right next to it on page seven. Hats off.

AFTER the delightful ground-breaking evening with my friend Mandy Mandelson I was distressed to learn that Mr Tony was vexed by yesterday's Diary, with its account of the event. I have it on good authority that he even accused Mandy of "selling out" by coming to dinner at my house on Friday night. In a tough, no nonsense counterstrike, the editor then accused *me* of "selling out", hinting at an imminent transfer to the industrial desk. Mandy, meanwhile, could be headed for Northern Ireland. I am mortified to have landed my friend in trouble with his boss, and he no doubt feels the same. We are now, Mandy and I, utterly alone, our careers hanging by a thread. Still, whatever happens, we'll always have Shepherds Bush.

WHAT'S good enough for the Trade Secretary will not do, apparently, for young Lorna Fitzsimons, the saucy MP for Rochdale. We rang her office yesterday to ask her to lunch yet again. "Well, what do you think?" replied her researcher. "We're very flattered, but we're not going to waste taxpayers' money . . ." We'd hardly expect Lorna to pay. "No, this call is wasting taxpayers's money. I'm very busy and so is Lorna." (Do you wonder why I've banned young people from reading this column?) You do know, don't you, we add menacingly, that we had Mandy for dinner. "I know you did. Sorry, but we're too busy for the forseeable."

IN Great Falls, Montana, Raymond Lutz has narrowly failed to escape prosecution after being nicked doing 104 miles an hour in a 45 mph zone. Mr Lutz came up with a credible excuse ("I'd just done washing my truck and was trying to dry it off"), reports FHM magazine, but this Sheriff John Strandell wilfully chose to ignore.



On the yellow line with a parking attendant who pretended I didn't exist

Decca Aitkenhead



IT IS often said that living in a big city like London can be dangerous. I fear the greatest of danger is that it will turn you into a bore. London's fans claim that the capital fizzes with witty, metropolitan badinage, but in my experience, when people who live in London get together, they like nothing better than to bore on about parking.

I have spent whole evenings in the company of Londoners who talked of nothing but the timing of parking attendants' rota shifts in a particular post code, and of how many minutes you may leave your car unattended in such-and-such street before it is clamped. My worry is that I might be starting to mistake this for interesting conversation, and am about to join in.

So it is with much trepidation that I relay the following story, in the hope that it is more suggestive than just another party parking anecdote. One morning last week, I left my car on a yellow line on the street near my flat. Returning three minutes later, I found a parking attendant getting ready to issue a ticket. What followed was surreal.

I did the usual futile routine — oops, so sorry, ha ha, is it okay if I move it right now? etc. Everyone tries this, and it never works; the attendant always says you're too late, and carries on with the ticket. On this occasion, the attendant said nothing at all. He didn't look up. He pretended I wasn't there. He carried on processing the ticket. It was as though he were deaf and dumb, a piece of pre-programmed robotic machinery.

Printing out a ticket takes maybe four or five minutes. During that time, we stood a few feet away from each other, and I asked him questions. Could he hear me? Did he know I was there? Would he look at me? Was he going to talk to me? Was he going to say anything at all? Passers-by stopped and stared at the spectacle of two people standing next to each other, both involved in the same exchange, and one of them refusing to acknowledge that the other one was there. The attendant placed the ticket on the windscreen, turned and walked off, stare still fixed at a 90-degree angle.

There is a standard case for arguing that parking control has gone mad. People complain that armies of commission-hungry attendants are scouring the streets, backed up by private companies who employ thugs to tow away your car for an extortionate fee. You hear about thoroughly unpleasant scenes at car pounds, and the angry opinion say they should be abolished. It's a familiar complaint, and understandable enough, but not very sound.

Parking control is a perfectly legitimate exercise, and if all the traffic wardens and clampers were made redundant tomorrow, London would grind to a halt. You don't get towed away unless you park illegally, and I wouldn't have got a ticket if I hadn't parked on a yellow line. It was entirely reasonable, if annoying, for the attendant to give me a ticket. That isn't the point.

ALTERNATIVELY, there are those who look at the pressure on parking in cities and conclude that this is the inevitable consequence of a car culture. If public transport is useless, cars are fetishised, and company cars are society's semi-tax-free trophies, of course we will encounter problems over where to put them all. There is some obvious truth in this, but that is also another argument.

The profoundly depressing point about last week's encounter with the attendant was not that I will have to pay a fine, which is normal enough, but that he would not even register that anyone else was there, which I do not think should be normal at all. It wasn't an aggressive encounter — I was too stunned to raise my voice — and it was only a parking ticket. It would be preferable if he issued 10 tickets at a go, and said something in the process, than had been reduced to the role of wordless automaton. It was an alienated, dehumanised exchange.

You would hope that this was the behaviour of one demoralised attendant who is sick of his job. It turns out that Camden Council, his employer, actually trains its parking attendants to act as if the public do not exist. Apparently, this is the approved strategy to prevent their staff being assaulted. So a local authority trains its staff to blank the people who elected it, and regards this as good practice.

A colleague recently witnessed a doctor jump from his car and rush into a house, clearly on an emergency call. So did a parking attendant, and she crossed the street to issue a ticket. My colleague pointed out that this was a doctor on call. She ignored him. Only when he tried to put money in the meter himself was she induced to talk to him, and she told him to mind his "own effing business".

The mistake is to think about these tiny incidents in terms of parking control. Parking is just a banal fact of life, but when people in cities are reduced to behaving like this, it is neither banal nor a necessarily inevitable fact of life. Each time we strip away another layer of social lubricant, removing human beings from innocuous everyday interactions, we undo the basic norms necessary for large numbers of people to live together in the same small spaces. It may seem more "efficient" to do so, because human contact is messy and unpredictable and difficult to control, but it is also deeply damaging.

SOCIETY is engaged in an endless debate about why it is that we seem to be getting less civilised. Where did road rage come from? How come teenagers are abusive? How come patients attack nurses? Why are assaults on police going up? There are an infinite number of answers, and how one council trains its parking attendants is only a tiny fraction of one. But as an example of the way in which our response to the problem only serves to compound it, it is instructive. It does not take a behavioural psychologist to point out that if people are treated by authority as if they do not exist, they are likely to react badly.

The danger of becoming a parking bore in London is more worrying than the odd parking ticket. On reflection, however, the danger of regarding as normal the training of parking attendants is much worse. Urban life is cramped — that's the whole point of it — and habits are contagious. What is offensive in Camden soon becomes unremarkable in Cardiff, and we will be left lamenting another bit of common civility, and wondering how it happened.

Straw implies the Guardian should have broken the law over Tisdall

Jack's clanger

Ian Aitken



ONE of the oddest features of the present Government is its preference for sycophantic enemies over candid friends. Thus it is almost routine for ministers to make ritual attacks on the Guardian at almost every opportunity. At the same time, they respond eagerly to the flattery of the Sun and the Daily Mail.

Nowhere was this more clearly on display than at last month's Labour conference. And it wasn't just ministers. No less eager with their sideswipes at assorted fringe meetings were backbenchers with ministerial ambitions. They clearly hoped that the shadowy figure at the back of the room was a whips' nark.

But the practice of Guardian-bashing reached a new level in the Commons chamber on Monday night. You might not have noticed — the House's previous business was listening to a personal statement by Ron Davies, which somehow stole the headlines — but MPs were debating the activities of MI5 and MI6. The discussion was based on the report of the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) — a committee of MPs, but oddly not a committee of the House.

It was a fascinating debate, with a succession of Labour committee members arguing that the status of the ISC should be changed from a body appointed by the Prime Minister — and therefore answerable to him — into a full-blown select committee appointed by the Commons and responsible exclusively to parliament. All the usual suspects were on display, including a typically slimy attack by Dr Julian Lewis, the Tory MP for New Forest, on Joan Ruddock for her CND activities.

THEN came a powerful speech by Clive Soley, the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, backing the call to turn the ISC into a select committee. But Soley concluded by drawing attention to the absence of provision, under the Official Secrets Act, for civil servants who leaked secrets to mount a "public interest" defence of their action. He complained that no distinction was made between leakers whose motives were wholly venal — he cited Peter Wright of Spycatcher fame — and whistleblowers who leaked information because they believed the public had a right to know.

In the latter category, Soley mentioned Clive Ponting and the Belgrano cover-up, and also "the sad case of Sarah Tisdall, the 23-year-old who was sent to prison, having given information to the Guardian". This stimulated Jack Straw to intervene from his seat on the Government front bench. "Blame the Guardian," he snapped.

Only three words, perhaps. But, coming from a home secretary who prides himself on a tough law-and-order approach to his job, these three words contain a remarkable implication. For they clearly suggest that the Guardian, in its handling of the Tisdall case, should have been prepared to break the law.

SARAH, it may be recalled, was a junior civil servant in the private office of the then defence secretary, Michael Heseltine. She discovered evidence that Hezza, who was personally dedicated to fighting CND, was planning a big deception to head off demonstrations against the arrival of the US Cruise missiles at Greenham Common. Angry, she pushed the document into the traditional plain brown envelope and delivered it to the Guardian. When the Guardian published, a fearful ho-ha ensued. The then editor, Peter Preston, was taken to court and ordered to return what was held to be a stolen document. After much agonising — and having witnessed it, I can testify to the agony — Preston decided that he had written too many leaders in defence of the rule of law to disobey it now. He returned the document, and Ms Tisdall was identified.

Jack Straw presumably believes that Preston should have defied the very law which, as New Labour's home secretary, it is now his duty to enforce. One can only assume that, dozing on the front bench, the years had slipped away and Our Jack imagined himself a tearaway student activist again, earning the accolade of a personal file in MI5's archives. Or perhaps he was remembering the occasion when, as an aide to Barbara Castle, he was fingerprinted as a suspect in a Whitehall leaks enquiry.

The debate turned up some additional gems. Did you know, for instance, that the nearest cafe to MI5's new riverside HQ is called Miss Moneypenny's? Or that there is something called "the Mossad rule" among intelligence gatherers, which states that you should never spend taxpayers' money or risk peoples' lives to unearth information that is already on the front page of Al-Ahram?

Did you know that the nearest cafe to MI5's HQ is called Miss Moneypenny's?

The dignified and determined response of the Bangladeshi people has saved thousands of lives

Coping with Mitch

Clare Short



THIS year has been one of the worst this century for natural disasters. At the beginning of the year El Niño brought floods to East Africa and drought and forest fires in Latin America and Indonesia.

In the summer, floods in China and Bangladesh killed thousands and left more homeless. And now Hurricane Mitch has become the worst tropical storm in Central America this century. Some 9,000 have been killed. Thousands more are missing and 1,000,000 or more are homeless. The destruction of roads and bridges is making distribution of aid extremely difficult.

There are fears that natural disasters will become more frequent and severe throughout the world. We need to learn how to prepare for them better and respond to them more effectively.

A few years ago, the normal response to a disaster like Hurricane Mitch would have been for the disaster-struck country to make the rounds of capitals asking for pledges. The response would often depend on how good the television coverage of the disaster had been in each country. We can and must do better than that.

The international system is co-ordinating the response to the devastation Hurricane Mitch has brought to Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and other parts of Central America.

Local and regional organisations are taking the lead in identifying priority needs. And they are working closely with the UN to organise all of the offers of outside help which have been made. Experience shows that the most important step is to use local organisations first and to make sure that those coming in from outside work under clear guidance from the national authorities. Too often responses to disasters have been made worse by well-intentioned but uncoordinated outside help.

> A few years ago, the response to a disaster like Hurricane Mitch would often depend on how good the television coverage of the disaster had been

Our response to Hurricane Mitch has taken this approach. We let the UN and others know immediately that we stood ready to help. But our first priority was to help get the structures in place that would make all our contributions as effective as possible. We have contributed funds through the regional Red Cross offices, the Pan-American Health Organisation and through international aid organisations such as Cafod and Care. We are also sending medical supplies direct to El Salvador. And HMS Sheffield's actions have already brought welcome help.

All of these contributions are part of an international effort involving many others. As new needs are identified, we will work with others to help meet them.

But we must also do more to prepare for disasters. Bangladesh is a model. The dignified and determined response of the Bangladeshi people to the floods this summer has saved thousands of lives. There are lessons for all of us in the way that the authorities there analysed the flood risks and made plans to tackle them.

My department is working with governments and organisations around the world to help countries reduce the risks from natural disasters, strengthen their ability to respond effectively when disasters do strike, and reconstruct quickly afterwards. We need to strengthen national capacities to handle natural disasters and build effective international systems to co-ordinate and deliver help to poorer countries.

> Now we will work with others to ensure an effective international response, both in the next few days and weeks and in the years of recovery that will be needed.

Hurricane Mitch is a devastating tragedy for Central America. We will keep working with others to ensure an effective international response, both in the next few days and weeks and in the years of recovery that will be needed.

And with the pace of natural disasters increasing, we will continue helping to improve the ability of poor countries to prepare for disasters, and the effectiveness of the international community in responding to them.

Clare Short is Secretary of State for International Development

هكذا من الاصل

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'Women of every degree, even daughters of royal houses, had sex with strangers'
Lily Devon, Letters

Carry on cutting

The Bank is on message

THEY marched them up to the top of the hill and now they are marching them down again. The Bank of England's monetary policy committee (MPC), having ill-advisedly raised interest rates for most of the year, is now finally convinced that the danger of recession is greater than the risk of inflation. Yesterday's reduction of 0.5 percentage points follows a cut of 0.25 per cent the previous month. Now they have acquired the habit, they should carry on for a bit longer. Interest rates in the UK are still 1.25 to 2.75 percentage points above France and Germany with whose economies the Government hopes eventually to converge. It's true that they are in the throes of an upward phase of the economic cycle while the UK is slowing down — but that is an added reason not to be too cautious because inflationary pressures will subside as the domestic economy slows down.

Lower interest rates will put more money in the pockets of people with mortgages (at the expense of savers) thereby giving a boost to consumer spending and the housing market, both of which have been flagging. Lower rates on loans will also make it cheaper for companies to invest. And, above all, will make the pound — which has been masochistically fighting above its weight in recent years — more competitive. The Chancellor ought to be relieved because lower interest rates are desperately needed if Britain's economy is to have any chance of achieving the "soft landing" forecast earlier this week in the Pre-Budget Statement. The speed at which the Bank is now reducing interest rates will be seen by critics as a *tacit admission that it was over hasty in* raising rates during the past year to defeat an inflation bogey that was already running away. Yet members of the MPC — to a man — voted against a reduction every month until September, when the previously hawkish Willem Buiter suddenly started cooing like a dove. It is important to say "to-a-man" because the only person to vote for a reduction (since May) was DeAnne Julius, the highest ranking women in a male-dominated Bank. It is just possible that there is a moral there somewhere.

The Bank's main reason for raising interest rates earlier in the year was fear of a wages boom. Yet revised figures published last month show that wage inflation early in the year instead of being over 5 per cent, as thought at the time, was actually under 4 per cent — well below the danger level. This confirmed what some observers felt at the time that the official earnings index was being exaggerated by technical factors including bonuses and the effects of profit-related pay. And even if it wasn't, price inflation (the ultimate object of monetary policy) was coming steadily down anyway. In other words the interest rate rise in June was based on false data and shouldn't have taken place.

What should happen now? First, the Bank of England should continue to reduce interest rates in order to engineer a fall in the pound sufficient to restore the pound's competitiveness. A burst of export-led growth would enable the UK economy to hitch a lift aboard Europe's revival and help the Chancellor's soft landing to become a reality. Second, if the Government wants to deliver another hammer blow to inflation it should act directly on prices. Why is it that cars are so much cheaper in Europe and computers in the United States? Why has the well-publicised collapse in farming incomes not been *translated into lower prices in the* shops? There is no particular worry about price inflation at the moment (it is falling everywhere) but if the Government wants to bolster the MPC's new-found realism, it should use its considerable regulatory powers to bring prices down further — so the Bank can Carry On Cutting.

Michael's mantle

Labour must let Wales choose

RARELY has so much attention been lavished on Wales in such a short space of time. Since the sudden, and still slightly mysterious, departure of Ron Davies as secretary of state, the London-based press and the London-based government have shown an interest in the principality rarely exhibited until now. The focus yesterday was the announcement by Mr Davies' successor, Alun Michael, that he wants to lead the first Welsh assembly, which is due to spring into life next May.

Three obstacles stand between him and that ambition. First, he is not yet even a candidate for the new assembly. Accomodatingly, Welsh Labour have re-opened the application procedure they closed in March so that he can find a seat. The other two problems are not so easily solved. Mr Michael has to assure Labour party members in Wales that he is not the Downing Street candidate, "parachuted in" to deal with the natives. And he has to beat the back-bench MP who took on Ron Davies: Rhodri Morgan.

These twin goals are related. For Mr Morgan's appeal rests on his status as the man from the grass roots, the Welsh challenger of the Millbank machine. If he can cast Mr Michael as the long arm of the centre, he might do well — especially in a ballot granting one member, one vote. For that reason, one could not blame Alun Michael and friends if they are hoping to avoid a direct contest. Yet the only way Mr Michael can throw off the Millbank mantle is to submit to an open, contested election. A back-room stitch-up in London will not be good enough: he needs to prove that he is, in the jargon, "Made in Wales".

If the party chooses a different path, and goes for the quick fix, it could well pay the price. Admittedly, disaffected Labour supporters do not have an obvious place to go: Plaid Cymru poses a much smaller threat to Welsh Labour than the Scottish Nationalists do to the party in Scotland, and both the Welsh Tories and Lib Dems are weak. But if Welsh Labour's sense of being taken for granted by Millbank grows, then apathy will be the result. Turnout next May, in a contest Labour is already billing as the Welsh General Election, will be low, and the legitimacy of the new assembly will be in doubt. This matters far beyond Wales: for if devolution was to founder there, the chances of self-rule spreading into England and across Britain would be badly hurt. Labour has to let Wales choose its own leader. That's what devolution is all about.

Caring for children

Central monitoring is crucial

ANY reform which gets such a euphoric response from the service it is meant to improve, needs careful scrutiny. Social service directors yesterday gave the Government's latest initiative to raise the standards of care of children living away from their parents an unequivocal welcome. They declared: "The Government is clear about what it wants to achieve — how it wants to improve things for children looked after. We agree." Ministers were responding to last year's Utting Report, which examined the safeguards of all 200,000 children living away from their parents. It embraced all institutions, from the grimmest penal unit to the poshest private school, but was prompted by the abuse — physical, sexual and emotional — which had occurred in children's homes. Children who had been taken away from their parents for their own protection, ended up being further abused in supposedly safe havens. No wonder the public was outraged.

What people forget is that most of the abuse still being tried in the courts happened two decades ago. Utting concluded last year that the risks today were far less. Indeed the number of children in such homes has shrunk from 40,000 to 6,000 in the last two decades. Children in foster homes, where there are fewer visitors and less monitoring, could be more vulnerable. Yesterday's package addresses current shortcomings: a new advocacy service to promote the voice of the child; better regulation of fostering, boarding schools, and small children's homes; more support for children leaving care.

Once again there is a promise to improve training but this time there will be a ministerial task force to monitor the overall programme of action. Child care has become fragmented with its different purchasers and providers. A central monitoring agency is crucial. To their credit, the social service directors do note one shortfall: the failure to end remands of children aged 15 and 16 to prison. Ministers remain reluctant to look soft on crime.

Letters to the Editor

Mandy and the noughties

AS one of a team from Exeter University that has been studying wild beaver in France for several years, I would strongly support their reintroduction to Britain on grounds of increased biodiversity. The overall range of plant and animal species, and the number of any one species, increase in their wake. You could almost argue that you don't need conservation officers, providing you have a resident beaver family.
Prof Bryony Coles.
University of Exeter.

SHOCK! Horror! Diary gets into bed with Mandy! Metaphorically speaking, of course. Cancel subscription.
Nigel Gann.
Southampton.

THE first political "pieing" in London did not occur last weekend (Custard pie on menu, November 2). On March 9 this year, Cllr John Biggs, chair of the environmental services committee of Tower Hamlets council, was pied by me in the council chamber in front of many witnessess.
Charlotte Baggins.
London.

WHAT are we to call the next decade (Letters, November 5)? The noughties, of course.
Laura Garratt.
Uxbridge, Middx.

FOLLOWED by the teenies?
Herbert Layton.
Churchdown, Glos.

THE "naughties", and I for one can't wait.
Steve Commons.
Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

ARE we heading for 10 years of disobedient, unruly and indecent post-millennium behaviour?
Peter J Martin.
London.

The value of family life

HUGO Young (Comment, November 5), offers a contradictory assessment of the Government's consultation document on the family. He begins by recognising the intrusive and oppressive character of the recommendations, but concludes by suggesting that the proposals are "not only valid but indispensably correct".

The suggestion appears to be that state interference in family life might prove onerous for the Guardian readership, but it is a price worth paying to control less respectable (presumably working class) families, described as the "focal point of so vast a range of social problems". This betrays a Victorian worldview in which the moral fibre of the masses needs to be reinforced by the attention of their social betters.

Not only does this give legitimacy to authoritarian state intervention in family life, it also draws attention away from the structural causes of social problems, such as inequality and poverty. The curious thing is that, in Britain at least, it is the left that is leading the calls for ever greater regulation of everyday life. I take some consolation from Jonathan Freedland (Comment, November 5) that the Americans at least are beginning to reject this tendency.
Dr David Wainwright.
University of Kent.

I AM glad that in spite of his reservations Hugo Young came out in support of the much maligned nanny state. It is a commonplace that when encountering a delinquent youngster or a "problem" child one is forced to the conclusion that it is too late, the damage has been done. The root problem lies in the family background. It is good that we have a government which, in spite of the many potential pitfalls, is prepared to try to tackle the problem.
R Rivers-Moore.
Fairford, Glos.

IN his attempt to reinstate family values and define the family as strict heterosexual coupledom, Jack Straw has fallen into the modern idolatry of the "2.4 children plus a dog" type of family that has nothing to do with the generosity required by the Christian gospel. Surely lesbian and gay people would be among the safest people to care for children because they are aware of the dangers? Professional opinion tells us that most child abuse takes place in "normal" families. Yet here is Jack Straw scapegoating gay people to maintain the smokescreen that all would be well if only you have one man and one woman who are married.

Marriage, as such, is no guarantee that a couple's motivations are ideal in respect to the children they may have.
Christopher Lamb.
Hemingford Grey, Cambs.

AS a child from an alternative family, I can assure everybody that it is love that counts and not two married parents. My mother, sisters and our gay, male role models were the envy of those of my friends who were tired of hearing their parents fight.

A gay/lesbian/single parent family is one that requires extraordinary thought and commitment on the part of the parents. People who are willing to fight for their families surely send the most important of all messages to their children — that they are valued.
Ron Elliott.
York.

They also defied the Germans

IT is totally false to say Britain "could have done more to balk massacre of Jews" (Report, November 3) and that in the wartime Channel Islands "co-operation and fraternisation with the Germans was the rule".

The truth was that islanders did defy the invaders and were punished for doing so. In Jersey, 2,600 men and women were imprisoned by the Germans, including my father, David Grove, a schoolmaster. In June 1942, he was one of 16 local men taken hostage following the distribution of anti-German leaflets and sabotage of communications.

When two brothers, Herbert and George Gallichan, owned up to the sabotage, Herbert was sentenced to five years in Wolfenbuttel concentration camp, and George to one year in Dijon prison, France.

My family also hid an escaped prisoner, Donald Bell, in the attic for about a month. Such stories are typical of the islanders' struggles, and show why it is foolish to say, as David Cesarani does: "There were almost no protests against the application of Nazi race laws." Islanders were in no position to know about Nazi race laws and defiance of German edicts, such as listening to the wireless, was met by a prison sentence, which, in the case of Canon Cohn of St Saviour, led to his death.
Jenny Chamier Grove.
Kew, Surrey

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters.



Employers back disability action

IN your eulogy of Margaret Hodge (Yes, new minister, G2, November 4) her defence for excluding 92.5 per cent of employers from the employment provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act is: "There is not a body of evidence . . . which demonstrates to employers that there will not be a hefty cost to them of employing disabled people."

This astounding claim contradicts the Government's own consultation document on the small employers' review, which stated: "Research evidence has shown that most employers experience no problems in employing disabled people and incur no, or little, additional costs in doing so." It is totally at variance with the provisions of the Act which specifically say that "only reasonable adjustments" are required.

Any hefty cost for employers would be prohibited by the Act itself.

In addition, if employers were so worried about these supposedly hefty costs, why did 90 per cent of them advocate a reduction in the employer exemption threshold from 20 employees, and why did 46 per cent of this group of employers think the reduction should be to two or more employees, whilst only 19 per cent thought it should be the 15 chosen by Government?
Lord Ashley of Stoke.

Laureates all

RE Simon Vogel's carping about Ted Hughes (Letters, November 5): Hughes opted for shorter, Anglo-Saxon words over smoother, Latinate ones; Betjeman was more a versifier than a poet; I hope Vogel's poetry is better than his prose.
Don Oldham.
Bristol.

WHOSE style could be more suited to chronicling the achievements of the Windsors than the great Pam Ayres?
Bob Heys.
Halifax.

SURELY the only contender to write poems which reflect the dignity of the monarchy is E J Thribb?
Peter Stockhill.
Middlesbrough.

Scrap Section 28 and bring gay sex out into the open

JOAN Smith (Dangerous Liaisons, G2, November 3) claims that having outdoor sex with strangers — "better carried on in the dark with someone you don't know" — is a puritan point of view. Curiously, this practice was at the heart of all the ancient goddess-worshipping religions of Europe and the Near East. Women of every degree, even queens and daughters of the royal houses, had sex with strangers as part of the Rites of the Goddess. The vast majority of these encounters took place out of doors on sacred ground — woods, groves, henges (Clapham Common probably has a long and honourable pedigree in this respect).

There can't, then, be any deep seated psychological barrier to women behaving like gay men. But of course, they don't, presumably because they're bright enough to see that they now live in a phallocentric world where rape and murder is commonplace. However, there is one group of modern women who do still roam our dangerous, frightening cities, outdoors, and at night, in search of strangers to have sex with, namely prostitutes. Is Ms Smith accusing them of being puritans too?
Lily Devon.
Moreton, Wirral.

AS the Government let it be known it has dropped its intention to scrap Section 28 of the Local Government Act, which forbids the "promotion" of homosexuality in schools, came reports of the suicide of a 15-year-old boy who had been mercilessly bullied because of his perceived homosexuality (Suicide verdict on boy, November 5). Any teacher who wants to help similarly tormented children may feel constrained from doing so by the existence of Section 28 and similarly tragic consequences will recur.
Terry Sanderson.
London.

Advertisement

CALL BY THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND CANTON OF GENEVA FOR THE EXTRADITION AND TRIAL OF AUGUSTO PINOCHET

On 23 October 1998, the Parliament of the Republic and Canton of Geneva adopted the following resolution:

The Parliament, considering:

- the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the dictator Augusto Pinochet in Chile for 17 years
- the arrest of this sinister individual by the British justice authorities at the request of two Madrid judges, who have asked for his extradition to Spain to face trial for "genocide, terrorism and incitement to torture",

resolves

- to condemn strongly the acts of Augusto Pinochet, who was undoubtedly responsible for a wave of political assassinations, torture and disappearances;
- to extend its unconditional support for the extradition request made by the two Spanish judges to the British government;
- to firmly encourage the British and Spanish governments to take all necessary steps to ensure that justice is finally done;
- to call for and to support the establishment of an international court so that the crimes committed by the former leader of the Chilean junta against his own citizens and persons from all over the world do not remain unpunished.

The Parliament of the Republic and Canton of Geneva proposes that this international court should sit in Geneva.

The Parliament

The Parliament of the Republic and Canton of Geneva consists of 100 members elected by universal suffrage.

Common pursuits

Bel Littlejohn



WHY disguise it? I'm literally knocked sideways to be Number 10's choice for next General Secretary of the Ramblers' Association.

Over the years I've enjoyed some truly great rambling with my good mate Janet Street-Porter. Together we've trudged over dales and downs and dunes and something else landscapey beginning with d (add soonest). And when we've reached the top, we've been able to grab a few precious minutes for sitting down and gazing all the way down at Janet's Psion Series 5 to block out our schedules.

I mention rambling because a lot of people think that just because they're stuck in a city centre, rambling has no place in their busy lifestyles. Not so, this Government totally supports the Right to Roam in all public parks and on commons. In fact, particularly on commons.

Mmmm — fresh air! Between hectic schedules, Janet and I regularly strap on our Doc Martens and our rucksacks and take to London's open spaces. And it's a joy we're pleased to share with some very senior figures. Over the past few months we've been literally knocked backwards to bump into so many members of the present Government. "There's nothing I enjoy like a tramp in the open air," a senior minister told me last week.

Clapham Common's a particular favourite, and this exclusive extract from Bel's Rambling Yearbook (Faber, £14.95) testifies to what a very popular location it's become with the new administration, bless 'em:

January: Exercising my Right to Roam, I put on my rucksack and set off with Janet S-P on an afternoon ramble in Battersea Park. Just near the old bandstand, I bump into the lovely John Prescott. There's something different about him, but I can't put my finger on it. Then it strikes me: his hair isn't usually blond and he doesn't often wear a centre parting. Also, I've never seen him in his chief steward's naval costume. He looks shy, bless him.

"Everything all right, John?" I say. "Fine, Bel," he replies. "Just rehearsing for the spring production of HMS Pinafore with some of the lads!"

February: Striding around the bushy area of Hampstead Heath in the evening, Janet and I spot Frank Dobson in the long grass. "Hiya, Frank!" I say. "But hey, isn't there something different about you? I know — you're wearing a long frock and Easter bonnet! You usually wear a dark suit from Ceefl Gee!" Frank explains that he's playing the part of Dear Little Buttercup in HMS Pinafore, before hurrying off.

APRIL: To Clapham Common for a well-earned ramble. Who should I spot but the super Jack Straw! Unusually for Jack, he is dressed in a one-piece silk jumpsuit with glitter inlays on either side of his chest. I recall that in the early 1970s, he was a founding member of the group Sweet. The rest of them went on to great success with top hits like Coco and Blockbuster, while Jack became Home Secretary. But he never lost touch with his musical roots, and can still be seen in his jumpsuit on special occasions, such as state banquets and rambles. He says he's testing Clapham Common as a suitable venue for a Sweet reunion in the autumn. "I'm just worried there'll be too many squeegee merchants about, Bel," he says, fiddling nervously with the sequins on his cheeks. "They can be a truly dreadful nuisance on the Common."

July: St James's Park has never seemed so lovely in the fading evening sun, all reds and oranges and (fill in more colours here). Janet and I are on a ramble all the way round the park when who should we stumble upon but Gordon Brown, marching forcefully along in a sober suit and tie, carrying his red box under his arm. "Whoops!" I yelp as we collide. In the confusion his red box snaps open and something clatters to the ground. Picking it up, I notice it's the new CD of The Village People's Greatest Hits. "Sarah's a huge fan," he mumbles as he bustles away.

October: Tony's been in Number 10 for 18 months now, and it's all gone like clockwork. We've been able to put all those years of Tory sleaze and hypocrisy behind us. That's what I tell the four Cabinet ministers I come upon during a ramble around Wimbledon Common. Later, I realise there was something odd. I ask the lovely Alastair Campbell if he knows why they were dressed as Wombles. "I only recognised one of them was Jack Straw because he was wearing his specs on the outside," I say. Alastair says he knows the reason, and they know the reason, and Tony knows the reason. And now I know the reason too. But frankly, it's none of your business, so just shut it, OK?

A day of falling profits, page 15

Tomorrow: Labour and the City now

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Finance Guardian

Unexpected help for homeowners ☐ Savings returns to fall ☐ City judges economy is in poor shape

Lenders cut their mortgage rates

Liz Stuart and Rupert Jones

BANKS and building societies moved immediately to cut their mortgage rates after an unexpected 0.5 per cent cut in base rates by the Bank of England yesterday.

A borrower with a £50,000 home loan will save up to £19.50 a month.

Halifax and Abbey National, the two biggest lenders, were among those which dropped their standard variable rates by 0.5 per cent. The Halifax's new rate is 8.2 per cent. Abbey National, which has a sliding scale of standard variable rates depending on loan size, has cut to 8.15 per cent for loans of up to £59,999, with effect from November 11 for existing borrowers, and December 1 for new. Taken together with the rate cut announced last month, a typical borrower with a £50,000 interest-only mortgage will benefit from a cumulative saving of nearly £30 a month.

Nationwide, which bills itself as the world's largest building society, is slicing its rate by 0.5 per cent to 7.7 per cent from December 1 for new and existing customers, and several other leading lenders announced similar cuts. Bradford & Bingley Building Society has cut its rate by 0.65 per cent to 7.85 per cent. This is on top of a 0.2 per cent reduction it announced last week, although the society did not cut its rates last time the Bank cut the base rate.

What the rate changes mean to you

Amount of loan	Halifax monthly payment at 8.2%	Nationwide monthly payment at 7.2%	Monthly payment saving*
£30,000	£184.50	£173.25	£11.25
£60,000	£369.50	£365.76	£23.74
£90,000	£594.50	£558.25	£36.25
£120,000	£799.50	£750.75	£48.75

*Based on interest only mortgage, assuming 25 year term. *Both lenders tax relief available up to £30,000*

Barclays Bank has moved from 8.7 per cent to 8.2 per cent, with effect from December 1 for all borrowers, and Woolwich's new 8.2 per cent has immediate effect for existing mortgage customers. Midland will announce its changes today.

Gren Folwell, deputy chief executive of the Halifax, said: "We welcome this move by the monetary policy committee and it will be of help to home owners."

Andrew Messenger, chief executive of the West Bromwich Building Society, said: "Action should have been taken many months ago to bring interest rates down. The committee now appears to be making amends."

The size of the cut caught most major lenders by surprise, said Mark Chilton, of mortgage brokers Savills Private Finance. Someone with a loan of £150,000 will save up to £61.25 a month.

Housing experts said the move would boost the market. The Council of Mortgage Lenders, the industry trade body, said: "The uncertainty with the economy and the recent rate rises have had a negative effect on the housing market, but it is hoped that this reduction will help to improve confidence and keep some stability in the market."

Earlier this week figures released by the Halifax revealed that, despite the gloom in the wider economy, October house prices showed the highest monthly rise since late last year.

Shelter, the housing charity, welcomed interest rate cuts, but said they must be considered against consistent rate rises and other factors which more quickly affected people's ability to make monthly mortgage payments. Shelter will this month publish a report on the causal relationship between employment patterns and repossessions.

The rate cut yesterday, the largest single rate shift in either direction since January 1995, is bad for savers. Bradford & Bingley said it was reducing savings rates by an average 0.6 per cent from November 15.

Halifax, Abbey National and Nationwide said they would make an announcement about savings rates. Gary Marsh, head of corporate affairs at the Halifax, said: "We don't like to lag."

The MPC's announcement signalled further increases in annuity rates, up 30 per cent over the past two years.

Shares are hit for billions

Charlotte Denny

THE Bank of England's unexpected half percentage point cut to base rates wiped £26 billion off the value of shares yesterday as the City concluded that the economic outlook was much gloomier than anticipated.

After hitting a 10-week high on Wednesday, the Financial Times index of 100 leading shares fell 141 points last night to close at 5478.9, a drop of 2.5 percentage points.

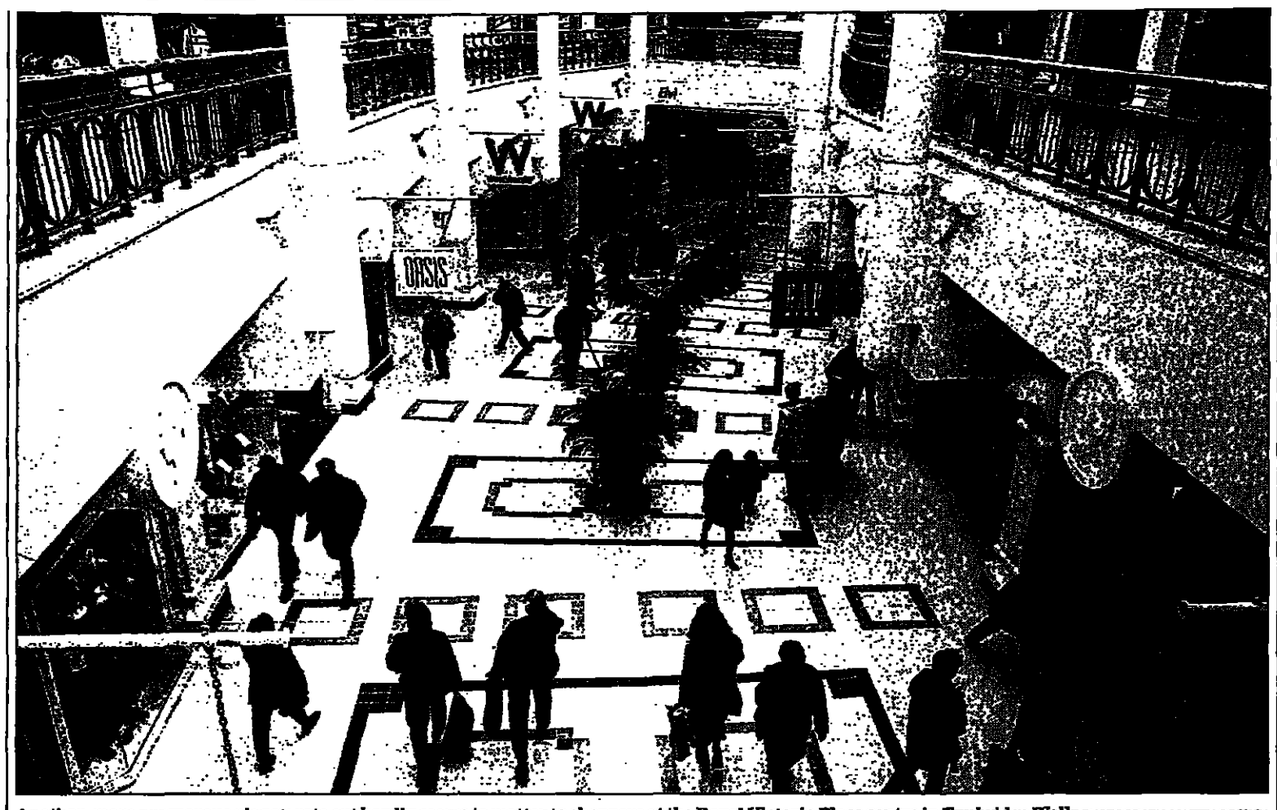
The market greeted the noon announcement of the cut in rates with initial enthusiasm but as investors digested the implications of the cut and the accompanying statement, fears of lower corporate earnings prompted profit taking.

Yesterday's statement from the Bank said that its monetary policy committee had moderated growth forecasts next year and now expected inflation to be lower.

"The bigger than expected cut has woken investors up to the fact that the economy is in a pretty dire state," said Colin Warren of Tokai Bank Europe. "It seems like a panic measure. The Bank had to give something up to make the Chancellor's forecasts look realistic but it's too late. Rates are still too high and the damage has already been done. It won't avoid us going into recession next year."

The pound buckled under a barrage of selling after the decision. Sterling shed 0.5 per cent against both the mark and the dollar, to set a two-month low against the US currency within minutes of the Bank's announcement of the largest rate reduction in five years. But an afternoon rally boosted the pound which closed down just half a pfennig against the mark at 2.7563.

The Footsie has climbed by 20 per cent since its October lows and analysts said much of yesterday's decline was due to profit taking. But the Bank's gloomy statement has also prompted investors to reassess the profitability of much of the corporate sector.



Another, more prosperous planet: rate cut hardly seems to matter to shoppers at the Royal Victoria Place centre in Tunbridge Wells PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GODWIN

Retail bubble still yo-yoing along in deepest Tunbridge

Janice Warman finds velvet hairband brigade are carrying on regardless

ROYAL Victoria Place in Tunbridge Wells has the air of another, more prosperous planet; glass roof panels, scenic lifts and wrought iron, redolent, perhaps, of the fashionable spa town it once was.

It is retail heaven from the glittering Chanel counters of Fenwicks to the primary colours of Gap. People with bursting shopping bags in each hand chat on benches or sip coffee in the cavernous food hall.

News of the base rate cut hasn't reached this far, it seems, and many retailers seem to feel that, while not exactly irrelevant, it doesn't matter much. They exist in a retail bubble, peopled with what Princess Diana used to call the "velvet hairband brigade", for whom the Christmas rush began in October half-term.

"The area is a wealthy one," says Helen Carpenter, manager of Decorating with Pictures. "It's not going to make that much difference."

Over at the specialist candle shop Wax Lyrical, manager Beryl Doré is thrilled at the difference moving the shop to a better site within the centre has made.

And Nicholas Ridsdale, manager of Karrimor, the specialist climbing outlet, said that last Christmas had been quiet, but feels the rate cut is bound to boost confidence. "Business has picked up in the last two weeks over the October half-term."

At Route One, the sports, skateboarding and kite shop next door, assistant manager Matt Roberts has the answer to world recession: yo-yos. "We will definitely have a good Christmas," he says. "And the reason is yo-yos."

The craze has doubled the shop's income. It offers a full range as well as a spares and repair service and there are queues of eight-year-olds out of the door and around the corner on Saturdays.

But Maureen Rush, owner of clothes shop Buddies, introduced a more sober note. "Yes, we are looking forward to a good Christmas, but we're not so sure about from then on. The rumour is we're heading for a world recession. The rate cut is good news — but I don't think it's enough. When you hear that M&S is 23 per cent down, things have got to be bleak."

She had a cautionary note too for Gordon Brown: "With business rates going up, small retailers may soon feel the pinch even more," she said.

Shoppers Tony Goodey and his partner are laden with bags. But they both feel the cut is no more than the one swallow which doesn't make a summer — perhaps because they both work for banks.

"It needs to stay at this level for a while," says Mr Goodey. After all, rates have been going up every month and people are far from confident about the world picture. People might even feel this was a panic move, he suggests.

But it seems he is a lone voice. Mrs Karen Fairclough, heading home with her children after finishing her shift as a sales assistant at Argos, points out that the spending spree which started in half-term has turned into a Christmas rush already. "I take it one day as it comes," she says. "One pay-packet at a time."



Notebook

A recession signal from the Bank



Alex Brummer

THIS has been a week of two halves. On Tuesday there was the Chancellor in his pre-Budget report forecasting that recession would be avoided and the UK economy would be roaring away by 2000. Then, yesterday, there was a very different message from the Bank of England. The Bank's decision to slice its key market rate by half a point to 6.75 per cent — having already cut by a quarter-point a month earlier — is as strong a recession signal as one is likely to get.

Less than four weeks ago there were only two members of the monetary policy committee — DeAnne Julius and Willem Buiter — pushing for a more agressive rate reduction. Now they have a majority including, one expects, the Governor, Eddie George, on their side. Mr George, in the broad tradition of central bankers commanding a committee, has not (as far as we know) found himself on the losing side.

So what has made the Bank wise up? Its statement invokes three reasons. First, the news about the international enviroment; second, prospects for the domestic economy; and finally, the outlook for inflation. Judging from the London stock market's reaction to the rate cut — a broad markdown bringing an end to the recent 11 per cent rally — it believes that the deterioration in the domestic economy and its effects on the turnover and profits of UK corporations is the biggest threat. This is, after all, the week in which the retailing bell-wether, Marks & Spencer, unveiled a 23 per cent profits retreat.

It is curious that the Bank should now be citing the global enviroment among its reasons for easing. Arguably, the global picture has steadied over the past month, unless there is some disaster pending in the monetary stability area about which the authorities are keeping silent.

In fact, it is curious that the Bank is paying much attention to global matters at all. In June, the MPC was only too happy to say that the UK, as a small, less-than-critical country in the wind-swept north-western corner of Europe, could make little difference to global meltdown. Rates were raised to 7.25 per cent, when they should have been at least held if not cut.

Since then, the world has been through the Russian GKO mess, volatile global equity markets, capital fleeing Latin America as if there were no tomorrow and an incipient credit crunch in the US. All these factors have, on the surface, been at least temporarily relieved since the October 8 interest rate cut, so the Bank's statement is not convincing.

The international factor which has changed since October 8 is the recognition by so many other central banks that concerted action to lower rates is necessary. The Federal Reserve's half-point cut on October 15 has been followed by reductions in Spain, Italy, Portugal and Ireland, among the European Monetary Union "in" countries and by Denmark and Sweden among the outs.

Only Germany and France are standing firm against interest rate reductions, despite slowing growth and the pressure on the Bundesbank from German finance minister Oskar Lafontaine for a monetary easing. So, in global terms, the MPC emerges as something of a follower rather than a leader.

This time around, however, the evidence of a domestic slowdown is looking far more decisive. The Chancellor outlined how UK exports to the Far East had been savaged by crisis. But what is likely to have been critical to the MPC is the survey evidence, plus its own intelligence obtained through the Bank's agents.

These serve, to some extent like the regional Federal Reserve banks in the US, as useful sounding boards. The CBI's quarterly industrial trends survey, released last week, and regarded by many economists inside and outside government as one of the most reliable forward-looking indicators, showed the worst reading in the balance between optimism and pessimism since 1980.

If any confirmation was needed on the difficulties of the manufacturing sector then it came from the industrial production figures, which showed a 0.4 per cent decline in output in September — or 1 per cent down over the past two months.

All the evidence from the high street is of subdued spending patterns as consumers batten down

But it is not just the manufacturing side of the economy which is now hurting. All the evidence from the high street is of subdued spending patterns as consumers batten down in response to uncertain financial markets, global economic gloom and the job losses in manufacturing.

At the heart of the Bank of England's thinking must always be its central mission to hit the 2.5 per cent inflation target. Mr George made clear in his keynote TUC speech that the MPC would work as hard to ensure that there was not a serious undershoot as it would if there were an overshoot. The domestic slowdown has led the Bank to revise downwards its inflation forecast over the next two years. How it arrived there will be fully explained in the next Inflation Report.

But the critical point here is that the drop in the Bank's repo rate to 6.75 per cent is unlikely to be the last. Eurosterling markets are signalling 6 per cent base rates by the spring. With money costs coming down at this pace this may just be the start of better times for homeowners — provided they can hang on to their jobs.

Downturn fears hit the high street

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

BRITAIN'S shops and stores had their worst month for more than three years in October as growing fears of recession prompted a mass avoidance of the high street by anxious consumers.

The latest snapshot of retailing from the Confederation of British Industry underlined recent grim news from large chains such as John Lewis and suggested that the UK's service sector is following manufacturing into the doldrums.

Data from the Office for National Statistics showed that weakening demand from clothes shops, coupled with cut-throat competition from Asia, cut production by Britain's textile sector by 3 per cent in the latest quarter.

According to the ONS, factory output fell by 0.1 per cent in the three months ending in September, with production down by 0.5 per cent in each of the last two months.

Nine of the 14 sub-sectors of manufacturing witnessed cutbacks in output, although strong sales of computers and transport equipment helped to minimise the overall drop.

ONS officials said that they had cut their estimate of the trend in manufacturing from a 0.5 per cent annual increase last month to a flat picture now. Factories produced the same amount of goods in the latest quarter as in the second quarter of 1990, when the economy was about to enter recession.

Surveys from both the British Chambers of Commerce and the CBI have indicated that the outlook for manufacturing is set to deteriorate over the winter.

While manufacturing now accounts for only 21.6 per cent of the economy, services account for around two-thirds of national output. The CBI said yesterday that the unexpected weakness of its Distributive Trades Survey was "clear evidence" that the whole economy was now slowing down.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI Distributive Trades panel, said: "The drop in retail sales in October took retailers by surprise. The survey continues to suggest that underlying growth in trade is losing momentum."

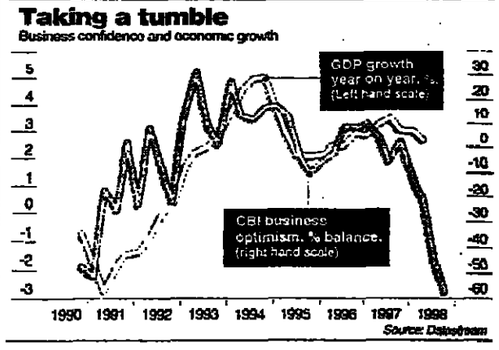
Retailers had expected sales in October to be modestly higher than 12 months ago, but the survey found that only 32 per cent reported business growing while 36 per cent said activity was lower than a year earlier. The negative balance of minus 4 per cent compared with plus 18 per cent in September and was the weakest finding since August 1995.

Analysts now expect shops to cut prices aggressively in a bid to woo consumers back into the shops for the Christmas trading period, which accounts for 25 per cent of annual retail sales.

Shops selling clothes, furniture and carpets, and hardware, china and DIY goods all reported that trade was down on October 1997, with those retailers selling small-ticket items — booksellers, chemists and shoe shops — faring better.

The CBI also said sales volumes for motor traders dropped sharply in October, and were expected to remain weak this month.

Taking a tumble
Business confidence and economic growth



Source: Datastream

Smiles for data detection act

Laurie Laird

OFFICIALS at the Office of National Statistics, which has been criticised for inconsistent earnings figures, could be forgiven for a wry smile after the US government had difficulties with a similar set of data.

America's Bureau of Labour Statistics, which produces revered employment and earnings data, yesterday inadvertently posted October statistics on its Internet site 24 hours before the scheduled release time of 12.30GMT today. An astute economic consultancy, Stone & McCarthy, noted the numbers, and reports say that Ray Stone, the group's partner, contacted the BLS. Mr Stone reportedly gave the BLS five minutes to officially release the data.

After getting no response, he broadcast the numbers on his screen-based service. The BLS later took the unusual step of officially releasing the data a day early.

"When we first discovered the problem, we took the data down, but then we realised people had the information anyway," said a BLS spokesperson, adding that the Bureau is investigating the cause of the mishap.

These aren't just any old numbers. As the first official government report released each month, the number of jobs created and the pace of earnings growth often set the tone of stock, bond and currency markets in the US and around the world.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.547	Germany 2.6755	Malaysia 6.29	Singapore 2.63
Austria 18.75	Greece 448.48	Malta 0.6086	South Africa 9.07
Belgium 55.23	Hong Kong 12.47	Netherlands 3.0069	Spain 226.45
Canada 2.45	India 70.048	New Zealand 3.00	Sweden 12.63
Cyprus 0.79	Ireland 1.0088	Norway 11.86	Switzerland 2.19
Denmark 10.24	Israel 7.13	Portugal 271.82	Turkey 459,590
Finland 8.21	Italy 2,660	Saudi Arabia 6.11	USA 1.6111
France 8.94			

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shekel and sterling)

Branson's awfully big adventure



RICHARD BRANSON arrived alone on a threeied, double-decker bus, grinning and hugging his freezing staff in the cold wind of Sheffield's Don Valley, *writes Silvi Pfahl.*

The Virgin chairman (above) was there to open his latest venture, Britain's biggest cinema in a £32.5 million leisure park where locals previously made steel. The 20-screen Megaplex centre, with 5,000 seats, marks another step in the northern trend of leisure and service jobs replacing heavy industry. The Government claims a net job rise in the North-east and Yorkshire but the Opposition is alarmed at the loss of manufacturing firms.

Some 600 jobs will be created at the new Valley Centre complex, which houses themed restaurants, cafes, night-clubs and bowling as well as the cinema. Mr Branson added that Megaplexes planned for Bolton, Lancashire, and Crawley in Sussex next year would only have 15 screens. "I'd say this Megaplex is the biggest we'll ever get," he said. PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

Lords' ruling takes swipe at workers' rights

Phillip Inman

A LANDMARK decision by the House of Lords has ruled against protecting workers rights when their jobs are transferred to a new employer.

Following a six-year battle, teachers at a residential school in St Helens have been told a significant principle built into European Union employment protection laws does not apply in the UK.

The test case revealed that the mass sacking of employees can be part of a transfer deal, giving the new employer further scope to cut pay and conditions of such staff.

Ironically, the employer in this instance was supported by arguments from employment law expert Cherie Booth QC.

Unions said the decision could affect many industrial tribunal claims, focusing on the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981, the UK's interpretation of the EU's Acquired Rights Directive. Unions are now considering an appeal to Europe.

Keith Sonnet, assistant general secretary of public sector union Unison, which represented the teachers, said: "It is a bad judgment and throws Tupe protection into doubt."

Unions could now be forced to fight hundreds of unfair dismissal claims before they contest the actual cuts imposed by a new employer. Tribunals, however, often make monetary awards in unfair dismissal cases but rarely give staff their jobs back.

The case, Wilson and Others v St Helens Borough Council, arose after the transfer of a school for children with special needs from Lancashire County Council to St Helens.

The staff were dismissed before they made the transfer. Only a proportion were kept on and they were told that they would have to accept cuts in pay and conditions.

A spokesman for Unison said the Lords ruling was an example of how the UK had failed to interpret properly the EU's Acquired Rights Directive into UK law.

He said the union would be looking for "imaginative ways" to take the case to the European Court of Justice for clarification — something the Lords had been expected to do.

Last year the Court of Appeal agreed with the appeals tribunal that the dismissals were a device used by employers to weaken the protection rights of employees. It declared they were "a nullity" and the employer should be made to prove the cuts were made for economic, technical or organisational reasons.

Last week the Lords declared that the concept of "a nullity" did not exist in UK law and the teachers' dismissals still stood.

Case history

1992: Residential school transferred from Lancashire County Council to St Helens borough council. Staff dismissed. Some re-employed at lower pay by new employer.
1993: Case heard at industrial tribunal. Rules against staff.
1994: Employment appeals tribunal rules that Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 apply. Finds against employer.
1997: Appeal Court upholds case against employer.
1998: House of Lords says overturns Appeal Court and backs employer. Union says it will appeal to European Court.

Insurer's profits collapse

Jill Treanor

ROYAL and Sun Alliance may be forced to make further cuts to its 22,000-strong UK workforce after suffering a third-quarter profits slump.

Formed from the merger of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance two years ago, the insurer yesterday reported a collapse in operating profits to £37 million in the third quarter from £237 million the previous year. Its shares fell more than 9 per cent to 495½p after the results added to what has been a difficult week for the insurer, which was fined £225,000 on Wednesday for missing a key deadline for compensating victims of pensions misselling.

Some 5,000 jobs in the UK have already been cut as a result of the merger between the two insurers and Bob Mendelsohn, chief executive, yesterday refused to rule out further cutbacks to the worldwide workforce of 43,000.

"You have to take action on underwriting, getting the right price and getting the right cost base. In that environment, I'm not prepared to rule out job losses," Mr Mendelsohn said.

Any cuts will be known before the insurer reports its full-year results in March, by which time the sweeping review instigated by Mr Mendelsohn when he became chief executive will have been completed.

In the nine-month period to the end of September, Royal and Sun Alliance's profits fell to £636 million from £832 million. Its investment income fell by £71 million to £604 million, while life premiums rose to £1.92 billion from £1.82 billion.

The insurer blamed the profits downturn on the weather, an increase in the frequency of losses and fierce competition in the commercial insurance market.

Hurricane George, which ripped through the southern US, cost Royal and Sun Alliance £60 million in the third quarter and contributed to a £164 million increase in nine-month losses due to the weather. The impact of the bad weather in south Wales and the west of England will not be known until the end of the year.

Royal and Sun Alliance also had more large claims (upwards of £250,000) than usual — 63 against 11 last year.

Trevor May, insurance analyst at Salamon Smith Barney, said the insurer's experience of larger claims and weather incidents might be reflected in the fortunes of its rivals, which are due to report in coming weeks.

Mr Mendelsohn said the insurer was losing business because of its continued cautious stance on insuring companies for the "millennium bug" problem. He had some concern that governments around the world may not be ready in time to cope with the problems the computer glitch might cause.

Mr Mendelsohn shared the market's view that the results were "disappointing". "During the balance of this year and throughout 1999 we will be aggressively addressing both the underwriting and expense components of our operations," he said.

Soggy summer brings washout

THE wet summer boosted umbrella sales at Boots but washed out demand for sun cream. The net result was £8 million less profit in the first half of the year, despite an 8 per cent increase in total sales and a small rise in operating profit to £251 million.

Lord Blyth, the chairman, said yesterday it was difficult to isolate the impact of a rainy summer. "There are difficulties separating weather effect from consumer confidence, but miserable weather doesn't encourage footfall."

The company's estimates that sales in the Boots the Chemist chain were £20 million lower than in a normal summer. Sales of sunglasses were 5 per cent lower than last year, with suncreams down by 3.5 per cent. The Halfords chain saw sales of cycles fall by nearly 4 per cent.

The silver lining was a 17 per cent rise in umbrella sales, 15 per cent higher takings on cough and cold products and an increase in beauty, bath and hair care sales.

Lord Blyth said the group was pressing ahead with expansion at home and abroad. A further 15 edge-of-town Boots stores will be opened this year, adding to the 27 already trading.

Lord Blyth said the first stores in Thailand were doing well, while the trial in the Netherlands was still at the experimental stage. Boots aims to open four stores in Japan next year in a venture with Mitsubishi.

Roger Cowe

Crude prices hit margins

PROFITS at oil company Royal Dutch Shell fell by 57 per cent during the third quarter, underlining the need for the drastic reorganisation outlined by chairman Mark Moody-Stuart in September.

Mr Moody-Stuart said the group could face further problems, with oil prices over the next few years *likely to fall below the $12-$16* a barrel he forecast less than two months ago.

Third quarter net income announced yesterday fell from $2,063 million (£1,235 million) to $896 million, leaving profits for the first nine months 33 per cent lower at $4,089 million.

The company blamed the downturn mainly on a 33 per cent fall in crude oil prices and the impact of the Asia-Pacific recession on its chemical operations and on its refinery and retail petrol businesses. "The disappointing overall results, coupled with the possibility of a period of relatively low oil prices and low economic growth, lend urgency to ongoing efforts to restructure the group," Mr Moody-Stuart said.

The group is shedding 1,000 jobs at Shell Expro in Britain and Shell Oil in the United States and closing refineries in Britain, the US and Japan.

Mr Moody-Stuart said plans for further refinery closures were at an advanced stage.

Nicholas Bannister

Troubled oil group to shed £125m of North Sea assets

Terry Macalister and Nicholas Bannister

OIL independent Lasmo is planning to sell off most of its UK North Sea gas assets, worth up to £125 million, in an effort to return to profit.

News of Lasmo's decision to sell interests in 25 southern North Sea blocks comes as Eastern, the gas and electricity combine, said it had paid £100 million for BHP Petroleum's exploration and producing assets in the region.

Lasmo, which has already sold its Italian interests, is *retaining its involvement* with the Markham field, its key producing asset.

The moves by Lasmo and BHP underline the growing need for the exploration and production sector to raise money to counter the impact of low oil prices.

A Lasmo spokesman confirmed the likely sale or swap of southern North Sea assets but said: "This is part of a strategic review rather than a response to the low oil price."

Lasmo reported a net loss of £5 million for the year first half, compared with £26 million profit last time. It has been hit by $13-a-barrel prices and seen its share price fall to 185p from a year high of 305p.

Eastern, which has more than three million electricity customers and a million gas customers, said it would quadruple its North Sea gas interests by buying BHP's interests. The deal will make it the biggest investor in the Johnson field, *lifting its stake from* 5 to 35 per cent and give it 19 per cent of the Ravenspurn North field.

But it does not intend to keep BHP's interests in some non-producing discoveries and prospects in seven exploration licences. These are likely to be traded for other gas producing assets or sold.

News in brief

Hyundai prepares to take control of Kia

CREDITORS of Kia Motors Corp, the insolvent South Korean car maker, have accepted Hyundai's proposal to write off debt, paving the way for its acquisition.

Hyundai, the nation's largest vehicle manufacturer, asked Kia creditors to swap Won2.5 trillion (£1.15 billion) of debt for Won840 billion of equity and to write off Won4.7 trillion of debt. The request covers about 80 per cent of Won9 trillion of loans that the creditors offered to Kia and its Asia Motors affiliate before the two collapsed last year.

Hyundai won the right to acquire Kia and Asia Motors in an auction last month. It agreed to pay Won1.2 trillion by March to buy 51 per cent of the two groups. — *Bloomberg*

Yates will create 670 jobs

YATES Brothers Wine Lodges chain said it will create 670 jobs next year in 25 new branches.

The group also reported a big rise in profits. Yates, of Bolton, which also trades under the names Blob Shops, Watling Street Inns and Ha! Ha! Bar and Canteen, has opened 18 lodges in recent months and has more than 110 outlets. In the 26 weeks to September 27, Yates made a pre-tax profit of £6.2 million on turnover of £56.4 million. This compares with £5.1 million on £44.1 million during the same period last year. — *PA*

Shoppers reject hype

SHOPPERS resent supermarkets bombarding them with Christmas goods and festive displays too early in the year, says a survey.

More than two-thirds of consumers believe October is too soon to be confronted by Christmas. The message to supermarkets, according to the survey of 1,000 shoppers conducted for Supermarketing Magazine, is that 69 per cent of people do not want to see Christmas goods filling the shelves in the first week of October. Nearly three-quarters of women shoppers accused the big stores of overkill. The group objecting the most were those aged 45-54. Safeway, which had Christmas lines in September last year, said: "We wouldn't use up valuable shelf space if they did not sell." — *PA*

Leg up from arms trade

A DEFENCE Diversification Agency will be created to help companies in the civilian economy exploit advanced technology developed for military purposes, the Government said in a White Paper.

"But we are not in the business of subsidising industry," said George Robertson, the Defence Secretary. The agency will be set up in the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency and will be headed by Jon Carr, who is there on secondment from TI Group. The Campaign Against the Arms Trade said the objective should be to reduce the degree to which the British economy depended on weapons production. — *Richard Norton-Taylor*

'Knife the baby' claim

Microsoft Tri@l Week 3

Mark Tran in Washington

MICROSOFT told rivals at Apple to "knife the baby" and dump its QuickTime multimedia software, the landmark antitrust trial against Bill Gates's company heard yesterday.

The claim of Microsoft's ultimatum came as the court heard a third day of testimony from Avadis Tevanian, an Apple senior vice-president. According to Mr Tevanian, the exchange occurred during a meeting between executives of the two companies, when the Microsoft officials told Apple that it was time to withdraw from the multimedia market.

At one point, Peter Hoddie of Apple asked for clarification: "Are you really asking us to kill QuickTime. Do you want us to knife the baby?"

According to Mr Tevanian, Christopher Phillips, the business development manager for Microsoft, replied: "Yes, we're talking about knifing the baby."

But under cross questioning, Mr Tevanian admitted that he was not at the meeting. QuickTime is multimedia software that allows computer users to combine images with words, music or other sounds to create "virtual" experiences. First released for Apple's Macintosh operating system in 1991 and then for Windows in 1992, QuickTime is the market leader for multimedia software.

In his written testimony, Mr Tevanian accused Microsoft of putting pressure on Apple to cede the multimedia market to Microsoft, deliberately sabotaging QuickTime on Windows and threatening third parties not to use QuickTime. Theodore Edelman, a Microsoft lawyer, presented a memo written by Ross Ely, an Apple engineer, in which he suggested that Microsoft bundle QuickTime into Windows.

But Mr Tevanian brushed aside the memo, saying it was just a discussion paper that was flatly rejected by Apple interim chairman Steve Jobs. "They didn't have any good ideas. They weren't business people," Mr Tevanian said. He had earlier accused Microsoft of forcing Apple to adopt the Internet Explorer as its default or primary browser.

The government is accusing Microsoft of anti-competitive behaviour in the trial, which is in its third week.

Faster trains – with strings

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

RAILTRACK and GNER are planning a £1.5 billion deal to create the fastest-ever rail link between London and Edinburgh, provided the Government extends the train operator's franchise.

Both organisations said they were working to improve the 400-mile line over the next 10 years. The aim is to reduce the current journey time by 45 minutes to three-and-a-half hours.

Christopher Garnett, GNER's chief executive, said that there was nothing to stop the project being started within the next two years — if the Government agrees to an extension of its seven-year franchise, due to expire in 2002. The company wants an extension to 2011, to enable it to invest in new rolling stock, including tilting trains.

The deal is likely to hinge on whether John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, agrees. In spite of his criticism of the train operating companies, Mr Prescott has accepted that GNER's performance has been generally good and Mr Garnett said he was optimistic that a favourable decision would be made.

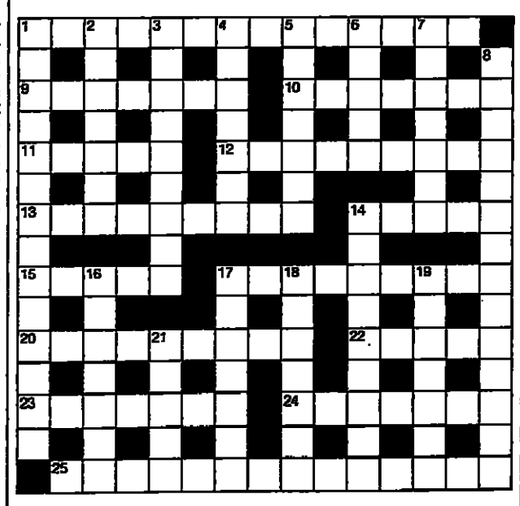
Gerald Corbett, Railtrack's chief executive, doubted that any deal could be struck until after a regulatory review in 2001, however. Railtrack yesterday revealed that its half-yearly profits rose by nearly 10 per cent to £224 million.

● Ten bus companies in the North-west of England were exposed yesterday for "blatantly anti-competitive price fixing" by a Restrictive Practices Court. The cartel had denied the chance of cheaper fares to the people of Liverpool and surrounding areas.

The companies involved were Merseyside Transport, North Western Road Car Company, South Lancashire Transport Company, C & M Travel, Nip-on-Transport, David Tanner Travel, Halton Borough Transport, PMT, First Manchester and Greater Manchester Buses South.

Guardian Crossword No 21,425

Set by Taupi



Across

1 Detrimental to a scruffy *ragamuffin* (14)
9 Seismal disturbance having no end (7)
10 Time to confine to abbey (7)
11 Back ten in plane, say, for exercise (5)
12 Fiancé's enthusiastic about returning perfume (9)
13 Verdancy's fair in fields to a point (9)
14 Lace flag (5)
15 Out of practice but reliable if given time (5)
17 Meditated on how one sees oneself (9)
20 Quick survey again and again? (5,4)
22 He's got the message (5)
23 One tipping dog (7)
24 Refuse bearer of gifts (4-3)
25 Good possibility of catching person out? (8,6)

Down

1 Unlikely relation of time to one twisting past it (10,4)
2 Tone down a finish (7)
3 Shock for student in foreign free-city (9)
4 No thanks to river rounding headland (7)
5 Flask's body containing erected craft (7)
6 Fish love jargon (5)
7 Not inside a brace if writer's twisted (7)
8 Trifling in valid position — runs into rope (14)
14 Where a river bridge might be better (9)
16 Sound pleased it's raised support for foot (7)
17 Forever sighting concealed game (7)
18 British figure out incendiary (7)
19 Giant said to be tense (7)
21 Here's to trip in Surrey (5)

MACKERELSKY
SUOLUUSA
HACKNEY GRILLED
OHGSLTLH
ECONOMIZE CLOYE
RFUKAWR
STAB IMPASSABLE
F ER
SOUSAPHONE AIRS
LCLOXCU
ETHOS BOOKMAKER
ENEMGORR
PLECTRA EXPLODE
YSTINUAY
SHOULDERPAD

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Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997
ABFPRST

From Hardy to Thatcher and Vicious, 100 faces that shaped the century





A panel choosing 10 photographs each from the National Portrait Gallery's archives includes (above, from left) Max Hastings, Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, Stephen Hawking, Trevor Phillips, Baroness Helena Kennedy, and (rear) Lord Puttnam. They are pictured with the gallery's director, Charles Saumarez Smith (left at rear). The pictures include suffragettes (left) photographed by Mrs Albert Brown, and Thomas Hardy (right), by Clive Holland

PHOTOGRAPH (top): GRAHAM TURNER



Dan Glaister on a photo retrospective

WHAT is the abiding photographic image of the century? For some it may be the Jarrow marchers. For others it could be Margaret Thatcher. Sid Vicious or Stanley Spencer?

In the latest effort to encapsulate the century, the National Portrait Gallery yesterday announced details of Faces Of The Century, a photographic retrospective chosen by 10 public figures. Each will choose 10 images, which will go on show next October.

The selection panel contemplating the gallery's exhaustive photographic archive includes fashion designer Vivienne Westwood, professor of mathematics Stephen Hawking, David Bowie, the historian Baron Briggs, Baroness Helena Kennedy, the broadcasters Anna Ford and Trevor Phillips, Evening Standard editor Max Hastings, and the film director and producer Lord Puttnam.

Announcing the venture, Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, also a member of the selection panel, said: "This is a really worthwhile way of marking the end of the millennium. We hope to include the great, the significant, the symbolic, the auspicious and the historic. It will be a significant survey of 20th century British life."

Lord Sainsbury illustrated his selection with a photograph of Thomas Hardy. "He is one of the greatest writers in Britain and yet none of us would have recognised him. All of my 10 are from the world of the arts and literature, chosen in the belief that in 100 years they will still be of relevance. Very few, fortunately, from politics are remembered."

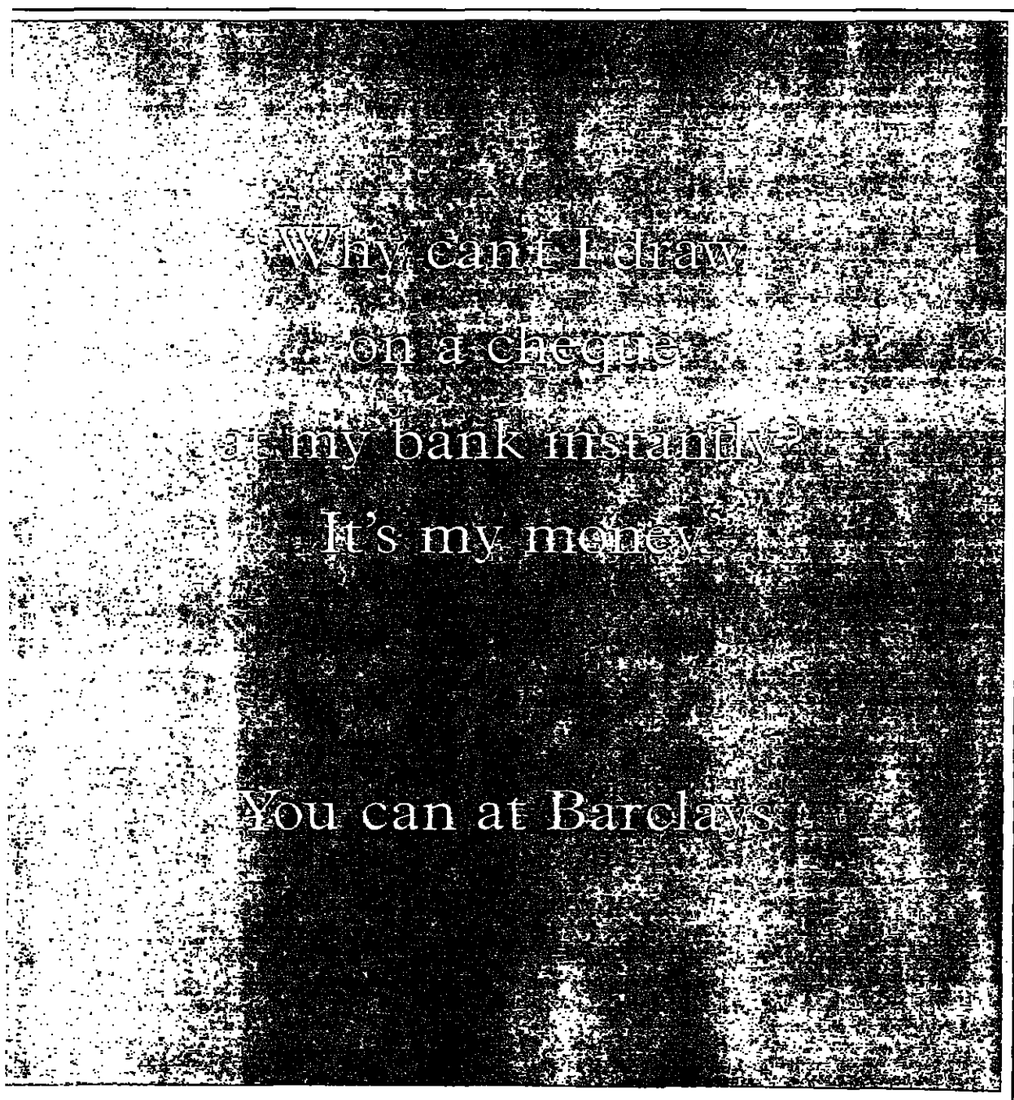
Lord Puttnam, who admitted that he had only managed to narrow his selection down to 30 or 40 images, said he hoped to use the opportunity to celebrate achievement and to sound a warning. "I started thinking about the changes in Britain in this century and what exemplified them. The great triumph has been the development of a multi-cultural, multi-racial society."

In choosing a photograph of Oswald Mosley and his black-shirt supporters, Lord Puttnam revealed something of his family history. His father, who worked as a professional photographer, is just visible on the edge of one photograph. Lord Puttnam did not know of the image until he went through the gallery's archive.

"This was not Nazi germany, it was Nazi Britain. The Mosley appeal went very far and is the greatest threat to achieving a multicultural society. It is a very personal photograph for me. I was brought up being very aware of the issues. I want to remind people of how thin tolerance is and how easy it is for a society to tip over into intolerance."

While Helena Kennedy revealed that one of the images she had chosen was of anti-Vietnam war protesters, Prof Hawking chose Francis Crick and James Watson, who first described the structure of DNA.

"I have concentrated on scientists and women, the important members of society," said Prof Hawking.



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GDN/A2



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Royal Mail

هكذا من الأصل

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

Today

	max	min	weather
Algiers	21	13	C
Amsterdam	11	7	Sh
Athens	25	15	F
Berlin	10	4	H
Bonn	11	5	Sh
Brussels	11	7	Sh
Copenhagen	7	2	Sh
Crete	24	16	F
Geneva	11	2	F
Larnaca	27	16	S
London	13	8	F
Madrid	16	4	S
Milan	16	5	F
Nice	19	10	S
Oslo	3	-3	Sl
Paris	13	5	F
Rome	18	9	Th
Stockholm	4	-2	F
Tunis	23	14	F
Vienna	12	4	F

Sunday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	26	13	S
Amsterdam	12	8	Sh
Athens	21	12	F
Berlin	8	1	F
Bonn	11	4	C
Brussels	11	6	Sh
Copenhagen	8	1	F
Crete	22	15	F
Geneva	10	4	F
Larnaca	26	17	F
London	15	11	Sh
Madrid	20	5	F
Milan	18	6	M
Nice	19	11	S
Oslo	2	-2	F
Paris	12	8	Sh
Rome	19	8	F
Stockholm	3	-2	Sl
Tunis	23	13	F
Vienna	10	3	F

Tomorrow

	max	min	weather
Algiers	23	12	F
Amsterdam	13	7	C
Athens	24	13	F
Berlin	8	2	Sh
Bonn	13	5	Sh
Brussels	12	6	F
Copenhagen	6	0	Sh
Crete	24	17	F
Geneva	12	3	F
Larnaca	27	16	S
London	15	9	F
Madrid	16	7	C
Milan	16	5	F
Nice	18	11	S
Oslo	3	-4	F
Paris	14	4	F
Rome	18	7	S
Stockholm	3	-2	F
Tunis	23	13	F
Vienna	11	5	F

Monday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	26	14	F
Amsterdam	12	7	Sh
Athens	18	9	F
Berlin	6	1	F
Bonn	10	4	Sh
Brussels	12	7	Sh
Copenhagen	5	0	C
Crete	19	13	F
Geneva	13	6	F
Larnaca	26	13	F
London	16	8	Sh
Madrid	22	9	Sh
Milan	15	7	M
Nice	19	12	F
Oslo	2	-1	Sh
Paris	14	8	Sh
Rome	19	8	F
Stockholm	8	-2	F
Tunis	24	13	F
Vienna	7	1	F

C, cloudy; Dr, drizzle; F, fair; Fg, fog; H, hail; R, rain; Sl, sleet; Sn, snow; S, sunny; Th, thunder. *(previous day's readings)*

Around the world

Yesterday's lunchtime reports

Ajaccio	°C	17	63
Algiers	F	24	75
Amsterdam	R	10	50
Anchorage	C	2	36
Athens	F	24	75
Auckland	F	18	64
B Aires	C	26	79
Barbados	C	30	86
Barcelona	C	19	66
Belgrade	R	8	46
Berlin	C	7	45
Bermuda	C	25	77
Biarritz	F	17	63
Bombay	C	34	97
Barbados	C	13	54
Boston	F	7	45
Brisbane	C	24	75
Brussels	F	9	48
Budapest	C	9	48
Cairo	F	30	79
Calcutta	S	32	90
Calgary	C	1	34
Canberra	C	24	75
Cape Town	Sh	19	66
Casablanca	F	23	73
Chicago	Sn	3	37
Christchurch	F	17	63
Corfu	C	21	70
Dakar	S	29	84
Delhi	C	31	88
Denver	C	18	64
Dhaka	S	31	88
Dublin	F	9	48
Dubrovnik	C	19	66
Faro	R	17	63
Florence	C	17	63
Frankfurt	C	6	43
Funchal	S	23	73
Geneva	Sh	12	54
Gibraltar	C	20	68
Hamburg	Sn	4	39
Helsinki	C	4	39
Hong Kong	C	24	75
Honolulu	S	28	82
Ibiza	F	19	66
Innsbruck	F	7	45
Istanbul	C	20	68
Jersey	Sh	16	60
Jerusalem	F	24	75
Johburg	C	23	73
Karachi	S	34	93
Kiev	C	9	48
Kingston	F	31	88
Lagos	S	32	90
Lima	S	22	72
Lisbon	S	24	75
London	S	16	61
Los Angeles	F	21	70
Luxembourg	R	4	39
Madrid	S	22	72
Majorca	S	22	72
Malaga	S	32	90
Malta	S	22	72
Mecca	S	37	99
Melbourne	C	16	61
Mexico City	F	23	73
Miami	S	32	90
Milan	S	19	66
Montreal	Sn	1	34
Moscow	C	1	34
Munich	C	6	43
Nairobi	C	25	77
Naples	C	22	72
New Delhi	C	27	81
New Orleans	F	22	72
Nice	F	19	66
Oslo	F	0	32
Paris	S	12	54
Perth	S	31	88
Prague	C	5	41
Reykjavik	S	-4	25
Rhodes	S	22	72
Rio de Jan.	C	33	91
Rome	C	20	68
Singapore	C	31	88
Stockholm	C	2	36
Strasbourg	F	9	48
Sydney	S	27	81
Tel Aviv	S	30	86
Tenerife	S	29	84
Tokyo	C	19	66
Toronto	C	5	41
Tunis	C	20	68
Valencia	C	14	57
Vancouver	Sh	9	48
Venice	F	13	55
Vienna	F	10	50
Warsaw	C	4	39
Washington	C	9	48
Wellington	F	14	57
Zurich	F	8	46

European weather outlook

Scandinavia

Unsettled with sleet and snow showers across central and northern Scandinavia. In southern Scandinavia there will be a spell of heavy rain which will clear eastwards to heavy, blustery showers in the afternoon. Max temps ranging from -7C (19F) in the far north to 7C (45F) in the far south.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland

A lot of cloud with rain in the north, but further south will be drier with some sunny breaks developing. Max temps 9-11C (48-52F).

France

Northern coasts of France will be cloudy with some light rain, but elsewhere in France will be dry with sunny spells. The best of the sunshine along the south coast where max temps will reach 19C (66F). Elsewhere max temps will be in the 10-18C (50-66F) range.

Spain and Portugal

Southern Spain, including the Costa del Sol and the Costa Blanca, will be cloudy with showers. The showers heavy with the risk of thundery downpours at times. Elsewhere in Spain will be dry with sunny spells. Max temps will reach 19-24C (66-76F) along coasts but only 15-19C (59-66F) elsewhere.

Italy

Southern and central Italy will have some heavy rain with thundery downpours likely in places. Northern Italy will be dry with sunny spells. Max temps ranging from 15C (59F) in the far north and 23C (73F) in the far south.

Greece

Sunny spells in most parts but with an increasing risk of heavy showers breaking out in the coming evening and overnight. Max temps 21-25C (70-77F).

Television and Radio

BBC 1

7.00am Business Breakfast. 9.00 Breakfast News. 10.00 Kilroy. 10.40 Style Challenge. 11.05 City Hospital. 11.45 News Regional News and Weather. 12.00 Real Rooms. 12.25 Can I Cook, Won't Cook. 12.55 News Regional News. 1.00 Pass the Buck. 1.30 Going for a Song. 2.00 Wildlife. 2.30 Doctors. 3.00 News. 3.05 Regional News. 3.40 Neighbours. 4.05 Ionicals. 4.25 Wizadora. 4.35 Playdays. 4.55 Bill Bailey's Jungle. 5.20 Blue Peter. 5.45 Newsround. 5.50 Blue Peter. 6.05 Weather. 6.10 News. 7.00 News. 7.20 Regional News Magazine. 8.00 Weekend Wedding With Anne Robinson. 9.00 Top of the Pops. 9.30 Changing Rooms. 10.00 Party of a Lifetime. 10.40 News. 10.50 Dangerfield. 11.50 The Lily Savage Show. 12.50 Undercover Heart. 12.40 The Stand-Up Show. 1.10 Film: Night of the Big Heat. 2.55 Weather. 3.00 BBC News 24.

BBC 2

7.00am Ornithologists. 8.00 Holy Jeremy. 8.05 Teletubbies. 8.30 Tots and Jerry Kids. 8.35 Smart. 9.00 Robinson Sucoe. 9.40 Johnson and Friends. 9.55 Hello Jack, Hello Sailor. 10.00 Esther. 10.30 See You, See Me. 10.50 Watch. 10.55 Close Outside. 11.00 Teletubbies. 11.30 Noggenfogg. 11.50 Look and Read: Sid Rides. 12.10 Fantomville. 12.30 English File. 1.00 Teatime at The Stile in Animation. 1.30 Working Lunch. 2.00 Johnson and Friends. 2.10 Noddy Original Stories. 2.15 The History Hour. 3.10 Match of That Day. 5.40 News; Regional News and Weather. 5.55 On Due. 6.05 News; Regional News and Weather; Sport. 6.25 Gardeners' World. 7.00 Change That. 7.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. 8.00 Level 42. 8.50 Today's the Day. 9.00 The Simpsons. I Will The Simpsons. 7.45 Food Wars. 8.15 Fantastic Circus. 8.40 Bootroom. 9.00 Wilderness Walks. 9.30 Geoff Hamilton's A Man and His Garden. 10.00 Blackadder Goes Forth. 10.30 The Creatives. 11.00 Have I Got News for You. 11.30 Newsnight. 12.15 Video Nation Bangladesh Shorts. 12.35 Slide Street. 12.50 Later with Jools Holland. 1.50 Comedy Nation. 2.00 Cats 21. 2.20 Weather. 2.25 Close. 4.00 Learning Zone. 5.00 Close.

BBC Prime

● Intelsat

7.00am World News. 7.25 World Weather. 7.40 Wheel Bend Strawberry Jam! 7.45 Blue Peter. 8.10 Grange Hill. 8.40 Ready, Steady, Cook. 8.55 Style Challenge. 9.20 Change That. 10.00 Esther. 10.30 EastEnders. 11.00 Our Man in. 11.30 Food on France. 12.00 Ready, Steady, Cook. 1.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 1.30 Change That. 1.55 Holiday Weather. 2.00 Wildlife. 2.30 EastEnders. 3.00 Xtinct. 3.40 Style Challenge. 4.05 Holiday Weather. 4.10 Ionicals. 4.30 Wheel Bend Strawberry Jam! 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.00 Grange Hill. 5.30 Wildlife. 5.55 World News. 6.00 World Weather. 6.05 Ready, Steady, Cook. 7.00 EastEnders. 7.30 Dale Smith's Winter Collection. 8.00 You Rang M'Lord? 8.30 How to Be a Little Bit. 9.00 Casualty. 9.50 Weakest Link. 10.35 Remarkable Trees. 10.00 World News. 10.25 World Weather. 10.30 Sounds of the Seventies. 108 Dr Who: Horror of Fang Rock. 1.50 Being is Believing. 2.00 Scientific Community in 17th-Century England. 2.50 Psychology in Action: Personnel Selection. 3.00 Play and the Social World. 3.50 Global Tourism. 4.00 Fortress Britain. 4.50 Out of the Melting Pot. 5.00 The Chemistry of Survival.

BBC World

● Eutelsat

7.00am World News and Weather. 7.50 World Living: Top Gear. 8.00 World News and Weather. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News and Weather. 9.30 World Focus: Panorama. 10.00 World News and Weather. 10.30 Hard Talk. 11.00 World News and Weather. 11.50 World Living: The Net. 12.00 The World Today. 12.50 World City Guides. 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 World Focus: Panorama. 2.00 World News. 2.15 World Business Report and Weather. 2.30 The World Today. 3.00 World Living: Earth Report. 3.30 World City Guides. 4.00 World News and Weather. 4.30 Hard Talk. 5.00 World News and Weather. 5.30 World Focus: Panorama. 6.00 World News and Weather. 6.30 World Living: Top Gear. 6.50 World City Guides. 7.00 The World Today. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News and Weather. 9.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 10.00 World News. 10.10 World Business Report and Weather. 10.30 World Living: Future Fantastic. 11.00 World News and Weather. 12.30 World Business Report. 12.45 Asia Today. 1.00 World News. 1.05 USA Direct. 1.30 World Living: Earth Report. 2.00 News and Weather. 2.30 Asia Today. 2.45 World Business Report. 3.00 World News and World Weather. 3.30 USA Direct. 4.00 World News and Weather. 4.30 Hard Talk. 5.00 News and Weather. 5.30 USA Direct. 6.00 News and Weather. 6.30 World Focus: Panorama. 6.50 World City Guides.

Radio 4

93.4-94.6 MHz 198 kHz (1514)

7.00am Today. 9.00 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament. 10.00 Desert Island Discs. 10.45 (LW) An Act of Worship. 10.45 (FM) Serial: The Unknown Mistress. 11.00 Woman's Hour. 12.00 The Unwelcome Guest. 12.30 The Oldest Member. 1.00 (LW) News; Shipping Forecast. 1.00 News. 1.04 You and Yours. 2.00 The World at One. 2.30 Screen Test. 3.00 The Archers. 3.15 Afternoon Play: Real Women. 4.00 Making History. 4.30 Jerrow to Giro. 4.45 Feedback. 5.00 Bookclub. 5.30 The Message. 6.00 PM. 7.00 Sh'O'Clock News. 7.40 The News Quiz. 8.00 The Archers. 8.15 Front Row. 8.45 Letters from a Lost Generation. 9.00 Any Questions? 9.45 Letter from Amarlos. 10.00 The Friday Play: Pictures of the Floating World. 11.00 This World Tonight. 11.45 Book at Bedtime: Dennis Corelli's Mandolin. 12.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tackle. 12.30 (LW) Today in Parliament. 12.30 (FM) Notes from the Ditch. 1.00 News. 1.05 The Late Book: News of a Kidnapping. 1.45 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 As World Service.

BBC World Service

BBC World Service can be received in England on MW 648 kHz (463m) and in Western Europe on LW 198 kHz (1515m)

7.00am This Way We Are. 7.45 Transplantations. 8.00 News. 8.15 Of the Shelf: The Quest of the Holy Grail. 8.30 Music Review. 9.00 News. 9.10 Pause for Thought. 9.15 Westway. 9.30 John Peel. 10.00 News; (FM) only News in German. 10.09 World Business Report. 10.15 The Learning World. 10.30 Speaking of English. 10.45 Sports Round-Up. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 Assignment. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Focus on Faith. 1.00 News. 1.08 World Business Report. 1.15 Britain Today. 1.50 Wood, Gale and Brass. 1.45 Sports Round-Up. 2.00 Newshour. 6.00 News. 6.09 Outlook. 6.30 Multitrack. Afternoon. 4.30 News; (Mid only) News in German. 4.45 Football Extra. 4.50 To Be Confirmed. 4.80 Science in Action. 5.00 News. 5.15 Soundcheck. 5.30 Insight. (Mid only) News in German. 5.45 Britain Today. 6.00 Europe Today. 6.30 World Business Report. 6.45 Sports Round-Up. 7.00 Newsdesk. 7.30 Focus On Faith. (Mid only) News in German. 8.00 News Summary. 8.01 Outlook. 8.30 Piano Recital. 9.00 Jazz Record Requests. 9.45 Alexander. 9.00 Newshour. 10.00 News. 10.09 World Business Report. 10.15 Britain Today. 10.30 People and Politics. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 Insight. 11.45 Sports Round-Up. 12.00 News. 12.09 Outlook. 12.30 Multitrack. Afternoon. 1.00 Newshour. 4.00 From the Weekend. 4.45 Britain Today. 5.00 Newsdesk. 5.30 To Be Confirmed. 5.45 Politics by Proxy. 6.00 News. 6.09 Business Report. 6.30 Newshour. 2.00 News. 2.09 World Business Report. 2.15 Sports Round-Up. 4.00 Science in Action. 5.00 Newsdesk. 5.30 Insight. 5.45 Off the Shelf.

Sky Premier

● Astra

7.00 Mother Knows Best. 8.00 Always. 9.00 The Santa Clause. 1.00 Mother Knows Best. 3.00 The Bomber Boys. 5.00 Always. 7.00 The Santa Clause. 9.00 Tibbar. 10.00 The Pelt. 1.00 The Juror. 4.00 The Desperate Trail. 4.00 Prison of Secrets.

Sky MovieMax

● Astra

7.00 Time to Say Goodbye? 8.00 Shout. 10.00 Where the River Runs Black. 12.00 Time to Say Goodbye? Pt2. 2.00 Shout. 4.00 Take Your Best Shot. 6.00 Where the River Runs Black. 8.00 Fireflies. 9.00 UK. 10.40 10. 12.00 Farmers Feisties. Julie Roberts. 2.00 Movie Magic: Big Things Come in Small Packages. 60.00 The Relic. 11.40 Tremors II: Aftershocks. 1.00 Hernandez from De Deep. 2.00 The Lair of the White Worm. 4.35 Carriers.

Sky Cinema

● Astra

5.00 Buck Privates Come Home. 6.30 Hollywood Hall of Fame: Lauren Bacall. 7.00 Gentlemen's Agreement. 9.00 Abandon Ship. 11.00 The Ten Commandments. 2.40 FIST. 4.50 Hollywood Hall of Fame: Lauren Bacall. 5.30 Blood on the Moon.

Sky Sports

● Astra

1.00 Fixtures in Sport. 6.00 Sports Centre. 6.45 WWF: Superstars. 9.15 Sports Centre. 9.30 Racing News. 10.00 Aerobics Oz Style. 10.30 Football: Spanish Primera Liga. 12.30 Motorsport: Formula Three. 1.00 Aerobics. 1.30 Football League Review. 2.00 Futbol Mundial. 2.30 Trans World Sport. 3.30 What a Weekend. 7.00 Sports Centre. 8.00 Brittany Football: Northern Ireland v England – Live. 10.00 Fox Sports News. 11.00 Sports Centre. 12.00 Hold the Back Page. 1.00 Sports Centre. 2.00 WWF: Raw. 4.00 World Sport Special. 6.00 Futbol Mundial. 8.00 Hold the Back Page. 9.00 Sports Centre. 7.00 Close.

Sky Sports 3

● Astra

12.30 Fixtures in Sport. 1.00 Trans World Sport. 2.00 Fishing. 3.00 Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook. 3.55 Cricket: Super Max 4s. 6.30 Golf. 7.00 Rebel TV. 7.30 Motorsport: Champion of the Future. 8.00 Badminton: Danish Open. 10.00 Hold the Back Page. 11.00 WWF: Raw. 1.00 Close.

Eurosport

● Astra/Eutelsat

8.30 Football: European Cup Winners' Cup. 10.00 Motorsport: NASCAR Winston Cup Series. 12.00 International Motorsports Magazine. 1.00 Football: European Cup Winners' Cup. 3.00 Tennis: Paris Open – Live. 10.00 Boxing: European Super-Bantamweight Championship. 11.00 Cycling: Munich Six Days – Live. 12.00 Extreme Sports: Yoshi Only Zone. 1.00 Extreme Sports: X-Games. 1.30 Close.

Sky 1

● Astra

6.00 The Simpsons. 8.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show. 9.30 Hollywood Squares. 10.00 Guts! 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. 1.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show. 1.58 The Special K Collection. 2.00 Days of Our Lives. 2.58 The Special K Collection. 3.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 3.58 The Special K Collection. 4.00 Jerry Jones. 4.58 The Special K Collection. 5.00 Guts! 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 7.00 Married... With Children. 7.30 Friends. 8.00 The Simpsons. 8.30 The Simpsons. 9.00 The Simpsons. 9.30 The Simpsons. 10.00 Walker Texas Ranger. 11.00 Cops. 11.30 Cops. 12.00 Friends. 12.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 1.30 Renegade. 2.30 Long Play.

National Geographic

● Astra

8.00 The Survivors. 9.00 Source of the Mekong. 10.00 Elephant Island. 10.30 Among the Baboons. 11.00 Survival of the Apes. 12.00 American Trickster. 1.00 The Ornate Caves of Borneo. 2.00 Close.

UK Gold

● Astra

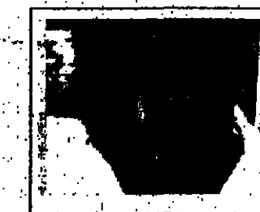
5.00 Crossroads. 5.30 Neighbours. 6.55 EastEnders. 9.30 The Bill. 10.00 The Bill. 10.30 Bergerac. 11.30 Angels. 12.00 Dallas. 12.55 Neighbours. 1.25 EastEnders. 2.00 Juliet Bravo. 3.00 Dallas. 3.55 The Bill. 4.25 Bergerac. 5.25 EastEnders. 6.00 Angels. 7.00 Are South. 8.00 Last of the Summer Wine. 8.40 Citizen Smith.. 9.10 Open All Hours. 10.00 Men Behaving Badly. 10.40 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet. 11.40 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? 12.25 The Bill. 12.55 The Bill. 1.25 Hamish Macbeth. 2.20 FILM: Devils of Darkness. 4.00 Shopping.

Discovery

● Astra/Intelsat

5.00 Reel Hunt's Fishing World. 5.30 Wheel Nuts. 6.00 First Flights. 6.30 Ancient Warriors. 7.00 Animal Doctor. 7.30 Wild Discovery: Amphibians. 8.00 Wild Discovery: Amphibians. 8.30 Ultra Science. 9.00 The Best of Discovery: UFO and Close Encounters. 10.00 Crocodile Hunter. 10.30 Crocodile Hunters. 11.00 Real Lives: Birth of a Salesman. 12.00 The Century of Warfare. 1.00 Rogue's Gallery. 2.00 First Flights. 2.30 Wheel Nuts. 3.00 Close.

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Lara's story
How the West Indies startled world cricket
page 2



Brum deal
Dublin finally moves to Villa for £5.75m
page 4



Cecil fails
Bad times on training's quality street
page 6

The Guardian Sport98

Friday November 6 1998 www.cricket98.co.uk

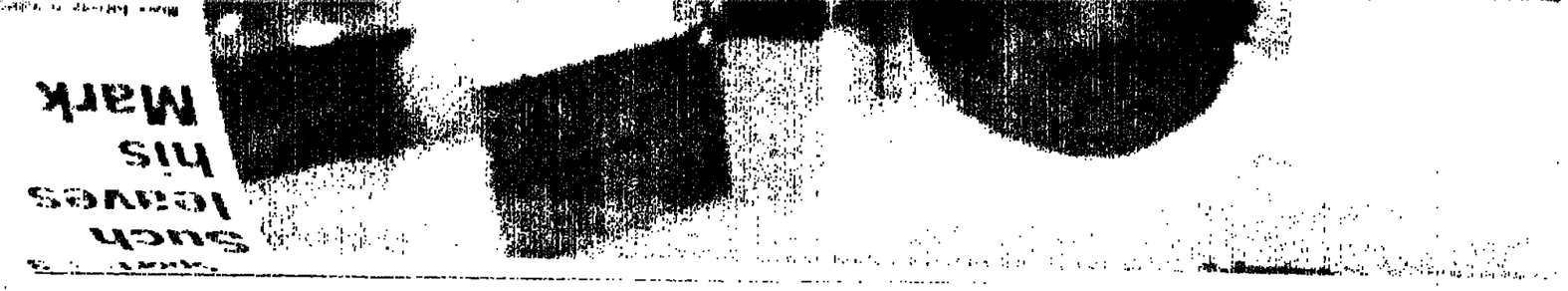


Last call for Mr Lara?

West Indies tour on the brink

Photograph by Nigel French

Friday Review INSIDE



such tosses his mark

Rebels stand by Lara

David Hopps and **Vivek Chaudhary**, and **John Perlman** in Johannesburg, report on the worst crisis in West Indies cricket history.

ALI BACHER left South Africa for Heathrow last night to host emergency peace talks between Brian Lara and representatives of the West Indies Cricket Board that has startled world cricket by unceremoniously sacking him from the captaincy.

Bacher, the driving force behind South Africa's commitment to multi-racial cricket, will seek to shame a draconian West Indies Board and their wildly rebellious players into an uneasy truce by pleading that a last-minute cancellation of their historic tour to the republic would cause financial and political disaster.

Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, has already temporarily stemmed a further revolt by the seven West Indies players in South Africa by persuading them to remain in the country for another 48 hours.

"We want a swift resolution to the problem, and we want the tour to take place as originally planned," Bacher said before leaving Johannesburg. "There has got to be a solution. The West Indian players know that their presence is important to the process of reconciliation in this country."

As part of the attempt to resolve the crisis — precipitated by Lara's high-risk display of brinkmanship over South African tour payments, and exacerbated by the board — Bacher was accompanied on the flight by Clive Lloyd, the West Indies tour manager. Joel Garner, one of the more conciliatory figures of the West Indies Board, is also expected to arrive in London from Bangladesh, where he is managing the West Indies A team.

The nine West Indies rebels spent much of yesterday in emergency meetings at the Excelsior Hotel at Heathrow. Lara, contemplating his abrupt removal from a post for which he had long agitated, said: "What has resulted so far is a bit unfortunate and I hope it can be resolved in the near future.

"The main thing is that the West Indies tour to South Africa should be on. The people want the tour to be on and hopefully something positive will come out of it. I am not a member of the West Indies cricket team at the moment but I would love to be there."

Lara, along with his vice-captain, Carl Hooper, had covertly broken away from part of the West Indies party at Bangkok airport, while en route to South Africa. Instead, they met the seven outstanding squad members in London, and hoisted their standard.

Lara, supported by the newly formed players' association, requested that board delegates discuss the players' financial grievances in London. Predictably, the board refused, instructing Lara and Hooper to attend an emergency board meeting in Antigua.

When Lara and Hooper refused, but were represented instead by players association officials, the board took the opportunity to "unanimously" sack them both — in Lara's case, punishing what they have long perceived as unacceptable egotistical posturing.

Even Manohar Ramsaran, sports minister in Lara's home island of Trinidad, pronounced that Lara's "disobedience" deserved punishment. And Bacher, the self-appointed peacemaker, did not spare him. "There must have been serious issues involved that necessitated such a drastic decision by the West Indies Board and therefore we must respect the decision," Bacher said. "I think there's a very clear signal to world cricket that nobody is indispensable."

That Lara might tour South Africa as merely a player seems inconceivable; that an implacable board might reinstate him equally improbable. But Courtney Walsh, head of the players' association, expressed a wish to fulfil the tour, the first Test series undertaken by a West Indies side in South Africa. "The guys have not backed out of the tour as a squad, they have been taken out," Walsh said. "As far as we concerned we are ready to go."

West Indies cricket is held to be facing its worst crisis since the rival international circuit plotted by the Australian television magnate, Kerry Packer, more than 20 years ago. It is worse than that.

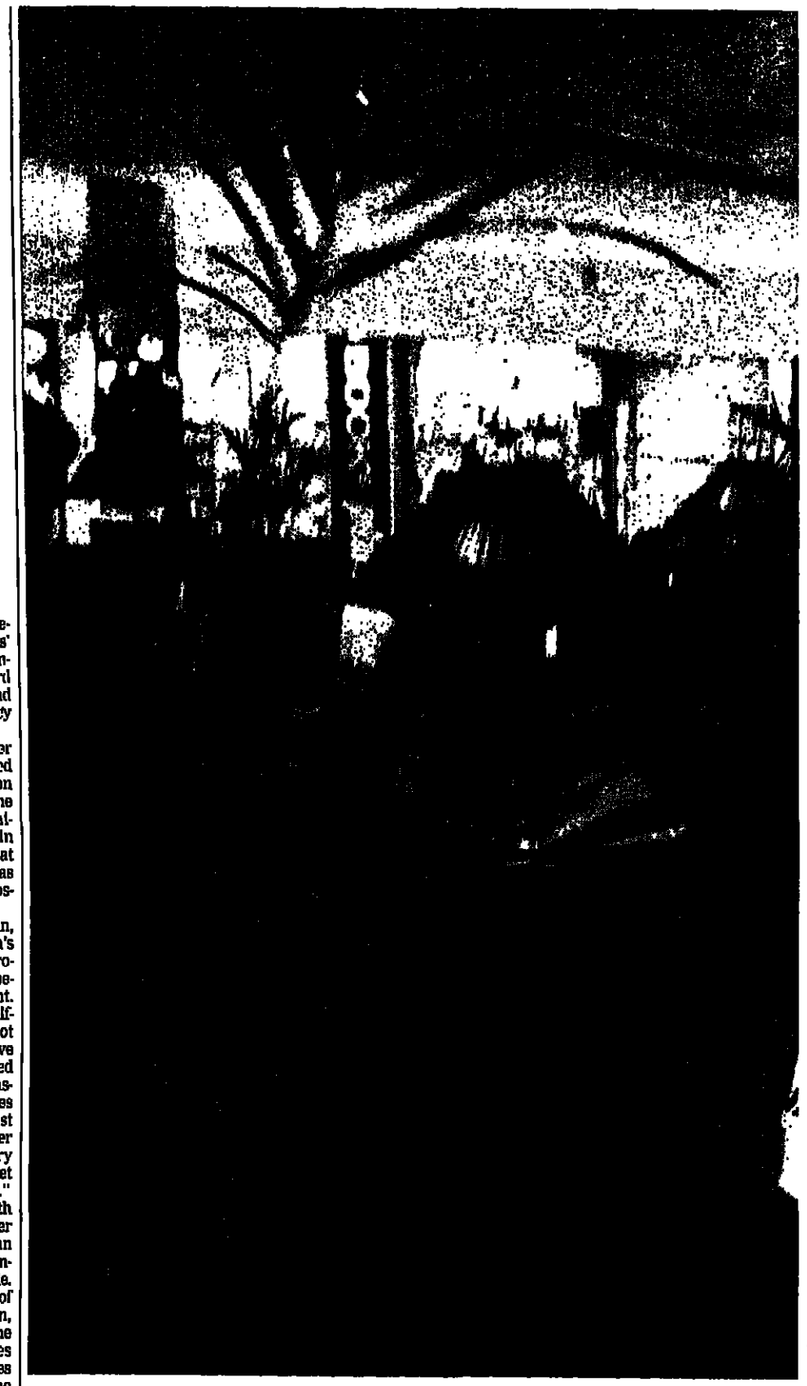
Pat Rousseau, the hard-line board president, concluded his announcement of Lara's sacking by announcing that a replacement squad would be selected on November 13, three days after the official start to the tour.

That a meaningful tour could be staged now is inconceivable. Lara has been fully supported by the players' association and, it seems, has won loyalty from the majority of his players. Without Bacher's successful intervention, the South African tour is dead, and West Indian cricket is trapped in the worst crisis in its history.

The life and strife of Brian

- **1984** Plays Under-19 representative cricket at 15.
- **1987** Captains West Indies Under-23 against Pakistan.
- **1988** Becomes youngest captain of Trinidad and Tobago.
- **1990** Test debut against Pakistan in Lahore.
- **1993** Scores first Test century against Australia in Sydney, making 277.
- **1994** Makes highest score in Test history, 375 against England in Antigua. Scores 501 not out for Warwickshire — the highest score in a first-class game.
- **1998** Announces retirement after verbal clash with captain Robbie Richardson. Changes mind. Pulls out of tour of Australia at last minute. Threatens to quit because of "bum-out".
- **1996** Reprimanded by West Indies board for verbal outburst.
- **1997** Named International Cricketer of the Year.
- **1997** Wins only Test as captain against India while Courtney Walsh is injured.
- **1998** Replaces Walsh full-time after losing Test series 3–0 in Pakistan. Sacked as captain after pay dispute.





BC Pires recounts a dramatic evening in the West Indies as cricket followers reacted to the shock of Lara's dismissal

Support swings back to players after marathon public inquest

FOR four hours on Wednesday evening, cricket fans all over the West Indies listened to an unprecedented live radio broadcast of a press conference given by the West Indies Cricket Board from Antigua.

Only actual cricket matches have been broadcast to the entire English-speaking Caribbean for that length of time. Not even the attempted coup in Trinidad in 1990, which precipitated five days of gunfire, bloodshed and civil disorder in Port of Spain, was given such treatment.

The Caribbean News Agency and the Antigua Broadcasting Service coverage began at 5pm and continued until 9pm. Radio stations did not even break for the news: the press conference itself was the only news.

At 6.30pm the WICB chairman, the Jamaican Pat Rousseau, emerged from the board's day-long meeting with

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For a job description and application form, contact the Personnel Assistant, Royal Brompton Campus, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, Dovehouse Street, London SW3 6LY or call 0171 351 8176, quoting reference CEP/534 Closing date: 19 November 1998.

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Further details and an application form are available from: Margaret Richards, STRI, St. Ives Estate, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU (Tel: 01274 565131 or e-mail:info@stri.org.uk). Closing date: 20 November 1998

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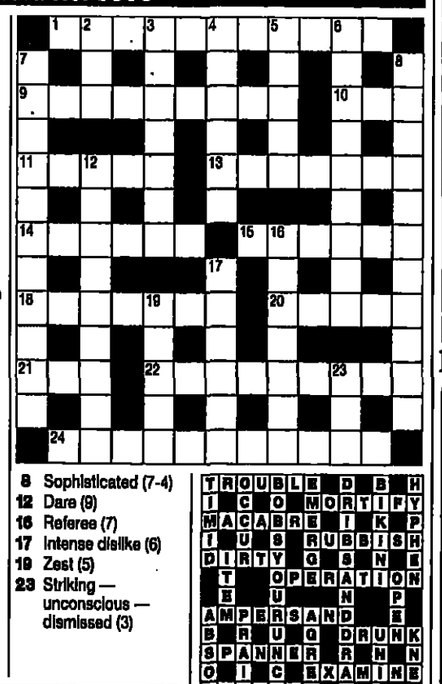
Quick Crossword No. 8898

Across

1 Close-in cricket fielder (5,3-3)
9 Vetoed (9)
10 Fuss (3)
11 Recess (5)
13 Kind of battery with non-liquid electrolyte (3-4)
14 Please (anag) — pass by (5)
15 Of the flesh — sensual (5)
18 Many-sided figure (7)
20 Under (5)
21 Religious female (3)
22 Expensive, opulent (9)
24 Show — protest (11)

Down

2 Anger (3)
3 Bounty (7)
4 Disease (6)
5 Tricky — dangerous — difficult (5)
6 Brotherly (9)
7 Bedspread (11)
8 Sophisticated (7-4)
12 Dare (9)
16 Referee (7)
17 Intense dislike (6)
19 Zest (5)
23 Striking — unconscious — dismissed (3)



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- Ensuring that all problems and requests are assigned to appropriate groups and documented accordingly.
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For further details and application form please send A4 SAE to Head of Support Services, Brecon Beacons National Park, 7 Glamorgan Street, Brecon LD3 7DP.

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Interviews: 25/11/98

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Department for Continuing Education

The Department's Technology Assisted Lifelong Learning programme is developing leading edge technology-supported courses and services. Due to continued expansion the following new staff are required:

Course Developer (Computing)

Grade RSII:

Salary Range: £21,815 - £29,048

The successful candidate will be responsible for design and content creation of an internet-based version of the Department's Undergraduate Certificate in Computing.

Key skills required: in-depth knowledge of major aspects of current computing theory and practice; substantial experience of course design, preferably in remotely delivered courses; demonstrable skills as a writer of materials designed for independent student use; excellent oral communication skills; and experience of applying technology to learning. Appointment for two years fixed term. Please quote reference CD - closing date 23rd November 1998.

Learning Technologists (2 posts)

Grade RSII:

Salary Range: £21,815 - £29,048

Working with academic staff, successful candidates will be responsible for on-line course development and associated research projects. Key skills required: experience of course design, preferably for remote delivery; expertise in the application of technology to teaching and learning; excellent communication skills, written and oral; and, understanding of educational practice and theory, including evaluation.

Potential candidates will be expected to demonstrate flair, innovation and ingenuity and be used to working in a vibrant multi-skilled environment. These are self-funding posts. Please quote reference LT - closing date 26th November 1998.

IT Support Specialist

Grade RSIA:

Salary Range: £15,735 - £23,651

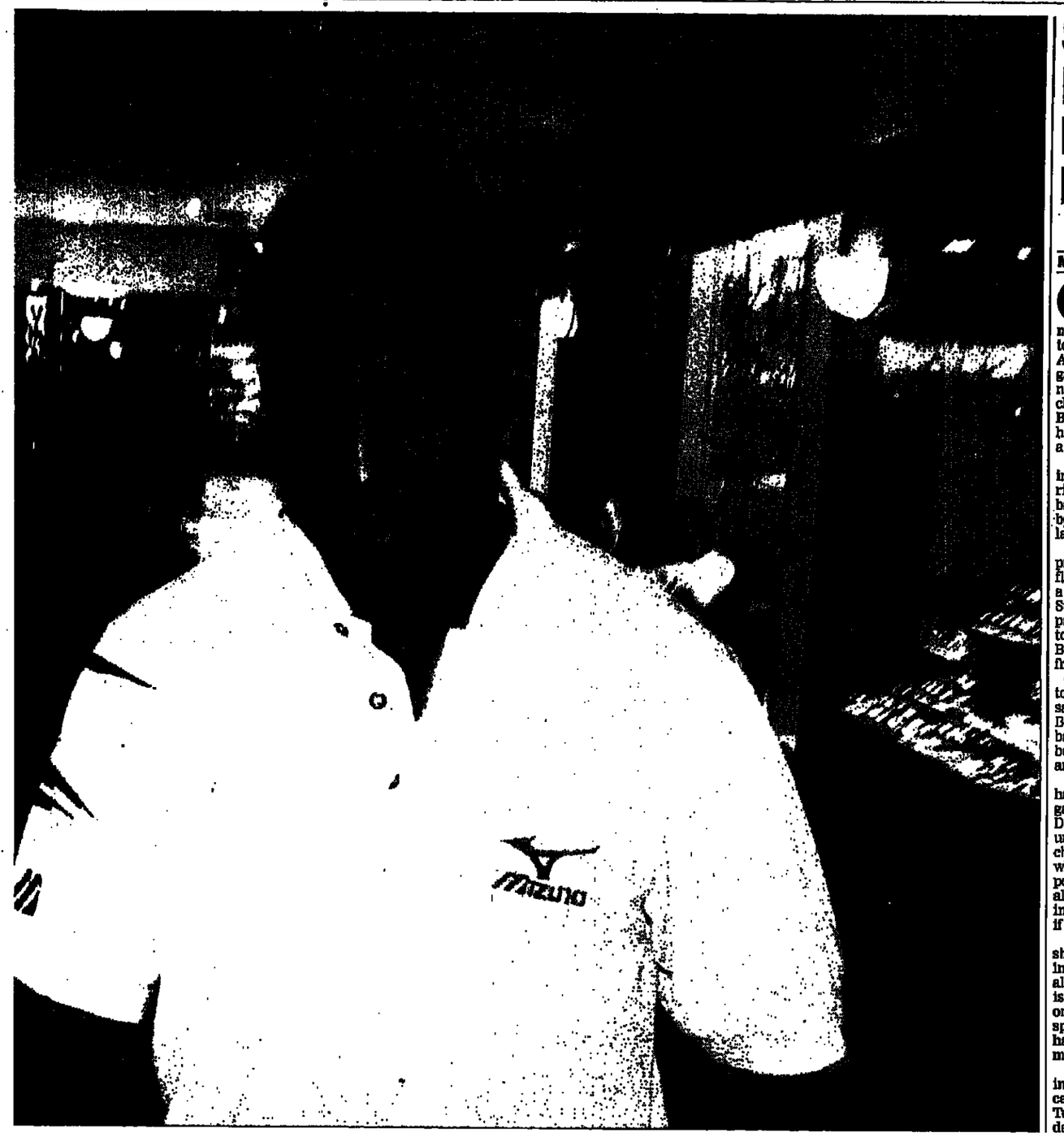
The post is for a specialist to support and advise on all aspects of IT relating to the delivery of new on-line courses in a range of academic disciplines and at a variety of levels.

The successful candidate will: be a systems support specialist, with the ability to program in PERL, Java or Visual Basic; have experience with NT4 Workstation and server, Windows 95/98, MS Exchange and Outlook 98, and Microsoft Office Professional 97 in a multi-user environment; be expected to troubleshoot problems with browsers, bulletin board systems, email, Adobe Acrobat documents and Real Media files; and be a team player with good communication skills. This is a self-funding post. Please quote reference IT - closing date 30th November 1998.

Informal enquiries about all the posts to Harold Beale (01865 280769). Further particulars (www.talt.ox.ac.uk/newposts).

Application forms from Emma Wills (emma.wills@conted.ox.ac.uk), OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA. Five copies of application form, a covering letter and typed copies of a CV with names and addresses of three referees (overseas applicants one copy) should be returned by the closing date specified for each post.

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Such leaves his Mark

Mike Selvey in Adelaide

GENTLE rain interrupted England's preparations here for their match against South Australia tomorrow. So a morning at the Adelaide Oval consisted of games-playing and general fitness training, during which a clash of heads left Mark Butcher with a slight cut over his left eye and Peter Such with a bruised nose.

Having had 10 stitches inserted in a gash over his right eye after being hit while batting in Perth, Butcher must be trying to remember when last he shot an albatross.

Tomorrow effectively sees preparations begin for the first Test starting in Brisbane a fortnight today. For Alec Stewart and Mike Atherton in particular it will be a chance to spend time at the crease. Both have recovered fully from injury, as has Butcher.

A decision will be made today on whether Nasser Hussain and Graham Thorpe play. Both might, and if so a final batting place would fall between Mark Ramprakash and John Crawley.

England would have liked to have given Ben Hollioake a game here, particularly as Dominic Cork's batting failures in Perth might have changed the minds of those who had viewed him as a potential Test No. 7. But although Hollioake's groin injury has improved it looks as if Cork will bat there anyway.

South Australia will be short of two of their four international players — the all-rounder Brad Young, who is in Pakistan with Australia's one-day squad, and the leg-spinner Peter McIntyre. He has a shoulder injury that may finish his career.

Shane Warne, still recovering from shoulder surgery, is certain to miss the first two Tests, the selector Allan Border said yesterday.

the representatives of the West Indies Players Association and announced what he took great pains to make clear was the unanimous decision of the board: Brian Lara and Carl Hooper had been relieved of the positions of captain and vice-captain of the West Indies cricket team and had been instructed to return to Antigua for a disciplinary hearing on November 13.

All over the West Indies, audiences reeled in shock. Nobody expected this. The story had broken in England on Monday that Lara and Hooper had refused to follow the board's directive to travel to South Africa. The suggestion was implicit in the board's subsequent press release: the bad boys of West Indies cricket were giving trouble again.

On Tuesday evening, media reports were couched in the terms which have now become familiar regarding the West Indies captain and matters of discipline. Once more, it seemed, Lara and Hooper, both of whom have previously opted out of important tours at the last minute, were up to their old tricks. For the first time, in a showdown between West Indies players and the board, widespread public sympathy lay with the board. It did not last long.

By Wednesday morning it was being reported that Lara and Hooper were acting on behalf of the other players. Even so, there was enough smouldering resentment of Lara's and Hooper's personal lifestyles to ensure a fair measure of sympathy for the board. Its press conference yesterday, however, did a great deal to change that.

A distressed and emotional Rousseau stressed that the board had been given no reason for Lara and Hooper's refusal to travel but had nevertheless (and unanimously) chosen to sack them. They refused to follow orders and no management in the world, said Rousseau, could tolerate that.

Eye of the storm ... Brian Lara displays his usual cool demeanour during a break in the debates at the Excelsior Hotel in London yesterday
PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Peter Short, who was chairman before Rousseau, telephoned the show to observe that it seemed Lara and Hooper had been denied natural justice by being penalised without having the chance to be heard.

The board also saw fit to disclose the match fees of the players, $685,000 (£383,000). The captain's match fees were stated separately. The board member reading the figures paused to point out that, should the same (unnamed) player captain both the one-day and the Test teams, that player would earn in excess of $52,000 (£32,000) for 47 days' work.

Members of the board emphasised that the figures did not include prize money, Man of the Match awards or sponsorships, that the players did not have to pay for a thing, that their every manageable expense was catered for.

Then Rousseau declared to the listening public: "You be the judge." Unfortunately for Rousseau and the board, few West Indians are likely to judge the players as harshly as the board itself has.

A radio chat show in Trinidad yesterday reported that 85 per cent of its callers considered the action of the WICB to have been too harsh. Did it have to come to this, on the eve of the tour? Rousseau responded: "Ask the players."

He denied that the action of the board was draconian. Asked whether there could not have been a solution that meant something other than that the players lost and the board won, Rousseau declared that the board had won nothing but had lost immeasurably.

He left the airwaves with the question unasked, and therefore unanswered: so why, then, did you do it?

Team talk

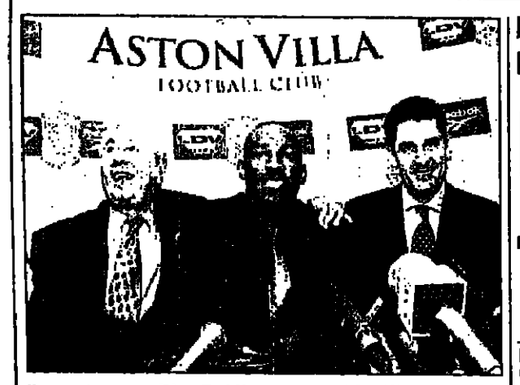
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The Guardian INTERACTIVE



Dream team . . . Dion Dublin, centre, with Villa's chairman Doug Ellis, left, and manager John Gregory JAMIE JONES

Dublin joins Villa on the glory trail

Peter White

ASTON VILLA last night completed the £5.75 million signing of Dion Dublin from Coventry City, as the Highfield Road chairman Bryan Richardson claimed that "rules and regulations had been broken".

Richardson, annoyed at losing his club captain, said: "We still intend to pursue this matter most rigorously. We are not happy with the aspects of it at all, and there are still a few more miles to run in this matter."

It is difficult to see how Richardson can seek any more compensation. Dublin, 29, had a clause in his contract allowing him to talk to any club making an offer over £5 million.

Dublin was also being sought by Blackburn Rovers and Leeds, and revealed that he could have joined either for more money than he will earn at Villa. But in signing a contract that runs for this season and five more he can still look forward to a salary of around £20,000 a week, the figure he was on at Coventry, and he believes he now has the best chance of winning trophies.

"I would have been better off financially going to the other clubs interested in me but I am an ambitious player and want to start winning trophies," he said. "There is nothing in the trophy cabinet and when a team that is top of the league comes in for you then it will have a big significance in making your mind up who to sign for."

John Gregory, the Villa manager, said: "I think we have surprised a few people, including ourselves, this season by being at the top of the Premiership. But I firmly believe we now have a squad capable of challenging any team for honours. Dion is a proven goalscorer and he will bring us a lot of qualities."

After completing his move Dublin added: "I am just relieved that it is all over and now I can get on with playing football. I once had a taste of the big time with Manchester United, then I moved to Coventry and I did well for them and they did well for me. But I always thought one day that if I worked hard enough I would get back to a big club, and that ambition has been fulfilled."

He will make his Villa debut at home to Tottenham tomorrow.

European Cup Winners' Cup, second round, second leg
FC Copenhagen 0 Chelsea 1 (agg 1–2)

Laudrup delivers farewell present

Paul Weaver in Copenhagen

FOR the third time in five seasons Chelsea are through to the quarter-finals of this competition. Needing a win or a high-scoring draw on a bitterly cold night, they came away with a 1–0 win after Brian Laudrup, almost inevitably in this city of fairy-tales, scored half an hour into the match.

Chelsea, having won four trophies in 15 months, went into the match galvanised by a league and cup unbeaten run of 13 matches, going back to defeat at Coventry on the season's opening day.

Their only change from the first leg was to bring in Celestine Babayaro in place of their four-goal leading scorer Gustavo Poyet, who started on the bench.

Laudrup is likely to return to Copenhagen shortly, but it was the homesick Dane who put ahead Chelsea ahead after 32 minutes. Graeme Le Saux crossed from the left, Pierluigi Casiraghi headed against the goalkeeper's right-hand post and Laudrup nodded home the rebound.

Copenhagen, solid and stolid, well organised but limited, looked a side in need of Laudrup's languid skills. Chelsea dominated long passages of the first half and might have taken the lead earlier. After three minutes Gianfranco Zola was brought down by Lars Hojer Nielsen: from the free-kick Le Saux had a fierce drive tipped over.

Five minutes later a Dennis Wise cross from the left, followed by a header from Casiraghi, brought another fine reflex save from Michael Stensgaard.

After 16 minutes Chelsea deserved to go ahead when Roberto Di Matteo's vision picked up Le Saux, running clear on the left. But the England defender shot into the side-netting.

Before Laudrup's goal Copenhagen posed problems for a Chelsea defence which had been underworked until then. In the 26th minute Ed De Goey saved well from Thomas Thorninger and a minute later a long-distance shot from Bjarne Goldbaek, who had scored at Stamford Bridge, had De Goey diving to his right to push the ball round the post.

The start to the second-half was somewhat overshadowed by the sight of the Blues' chairman Ken Bates going into the Chelsea end to demand that a banner rudely telling Laudrup to go home immediately be pulled down. Bates appeared to be involved in angry exchanges before the stewards intervened. After the chairman left, a flare was let off, sending orange smoke spiralling into the sky and heralding an increased police presence.

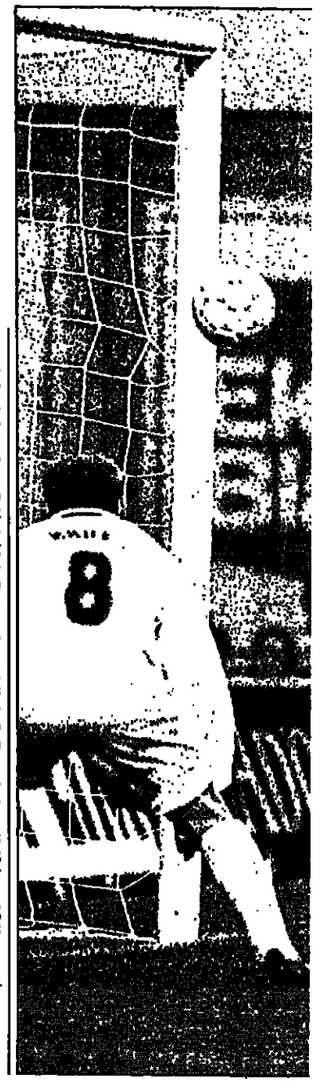
Nine minutes into the second half David Nielsen put through Goldbaek, whose left-foot shot was not strong enough to extend De Goey unduly. Soon afterwards he saved again, this time from Thomas Rytter.

After 62 minutes Copenhagen should have equalised. Peter Nielsen's cross found Rytter and his shot was blocked on the line by Babayaro but went straight to Todi Jonsson, who lifted the ball over from close range. Five minutes later Chelsea replaced Laudrup with Dan Petrescu.

FC Copenhagen (4-4-1-1): Stensgaard; Rytter, M Nielsen, Heren (M S Larsson, Simini), Jensen; Goldbaek, L Nielsen, P Nielsen, Hemmingsen, Thorninger (T Jonsson, 66); D Nielsen.

Chelsea (4-4-2): De Goey; Ferrer, Desailly, Leboeuf, Le Saux; Laudrup (Petrescu, 87), Di Matteo, Wise, Babayaro; Casiraghi (Poyet, 89) Zola.

Referee: C Colombo (France).



Homing in . . . Laudrup, second from right, heads Chelsea's winning goal past Stensgaard last night

Uefa Cup, second round, second leg: Rangers 1 Bayer Leverkusen 1 (agg 3–2)

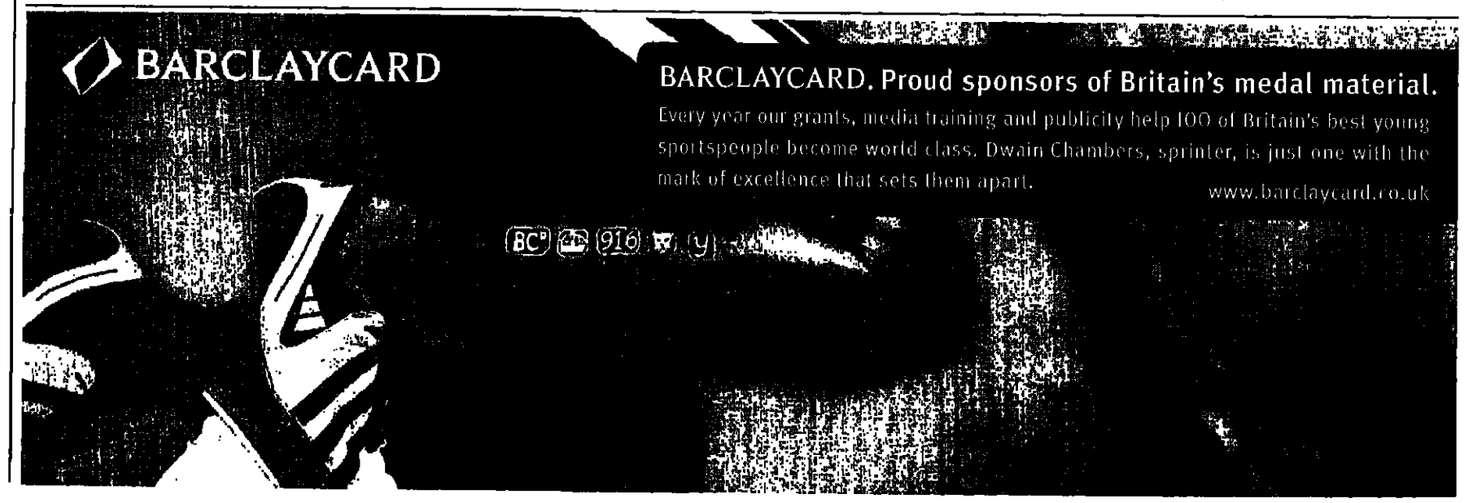
Johansson finds the fire power to answer German pressure

Patrick Glenn

ULF KIRSTEN's equaliser 11 minutes from the end, sweeping the ball home from close range from the substitute Thomas Reichenberger's knock across the goal area, was too little too late for Bayer Leverkusen at Ibrox last night. It was the least they deserved, having dominated the play, but Rangers' 2–1 victory in Germany took them into the last 16.

Dick Advocaat, the Rangers coach, emphasised often enough in the build-up that even victory in the first leg should not deflect his team from pursuing their normal, thrusting game. But for lengthy periods it seemed his certainty had not transmitted itself to his players as they allowed the visitors ample possession and too many scoring chances to be healthy.

Indeed Leverkusen could have been two goals ahead before Rangers contrived a goal





Tight finish . . . Paul Dole (white cap) gets up close home to score on Facile Tigre in the opening handicap at Brighton

Bailey keen on Leggera

Ron Cox

JERRY BAILEY, winner of six Breeders' Cup races, got acquainted with John Dunlop's Leggera at Churchill Downs yesterday and reported himself "more than pleased" with the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe runner-up.

Leggera, a 12–1 chance with Ladbrokes for tomorrow's Breeders' Cup Turf over a mile and a half, moved well on the Louisville track which is drying out all the time.

"She's a real neat little filly, and she went well. She's a small animal, not a big, long-striding horse, and she is excellent at coping with the track," said Bailey.

"The ground is not a problem for her," he added. "She may have had it soft before but she is a real good mover and she goes across it. You don't run second in a race like the Arc without being a useful filly. She has got a lot of speed and will do just fine."

Night Nurse, one of the great racehorses of the late seventies and early eighties, has died at the age of 28.

The dual Champion Hurdler, who spent his retirement with former trainer Peter Easterby, was humanely destroyed after suffering a stoppage caused by colic.

"It's sad to see him go but he had a long life and we're never going to forget him," said Easterby. "He was certainly one of the best horses I ever trained. He was so tough and was as brave as a lion."

Earthmover, one of jump racing's brightest new prospects, faces a race against time to be ready for the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury after his fall at Newton Abbot on Wednesday.

At the time it was thought the seven-year-old had emerged unscathed from the incident, but trainer Paul Nicholls reported yesterday that Earthmover has sustained a haematoma between his front legs which is proving troublesome.

The Nicky Richards-trained Papersling, another promising young chaser, is out for the season after injuring a tendon on the gallops.

On a happier note, Dorans Pride enjoyed a trouble-free round at Clonmel yesterday when justifying odds of 1–5 in the Morris Oil Chase. He is a 10–1 chance with Irish bookmaker Paddy Power for the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Golf

Langer is suited to game of blind man's buff

Gordon Richardson in Atlanta

BERNHARD LANGER broke the habit of a lifetime by going into the Sarazen World Open without a practice round, and shot 69 here at Chateau Elan yesterday.

They do not come more dedicated and painstaking than the 41-year-old German but he was detained by business in Europe after his sixth place in the Volvo Masters and he arrived late on Wednesday night to play a course he had never set eyes on.

He requested an early tee-off to forestall the jet-lag symptoms he knew would assail him by mid-afternoon, and five birdies helped him edge one clear of the Scot Andrew Coltart, the American Brad Faxon and the Zimbabwean Mark McNulty and bolster his hopes of avoiding finishing the season without a win for the first time in 19 years.

"It's the first time in my career I've played a tournament course blind and it felt strange," he said. "I was nearly out of bounds on one hole simply because I was not aware of the danger. But I had your yardage chart and my caddie Peter Coleman mapped out the course for me.

"I'm committed to only two more events, the Argentinian Masters and Million Dollar Challenge in Sun City, and after a worse-than-average if not awful year I'd like to preserve my record."

Langer, who has only twice finished lower than this season's 18th place in the Volvo Rankings, holed a pair of 18-foot putts and had two twos on his card.

Coltart, who finished runner-up to Darren Clarke in the Volvo Masters to climb from 16th to ninth in the Order of Merit, also managed five birdies and would have had a 67 but for a double-bogey six at the 2nd, where he drove into trouble, miscued his recovery and fluffed a three-foot putt.

Despite missing three more chances inside four yards coming home, the slim Scot who endured a frustrating summer after his breakthrough victory in the Qatar Masters is enjoying a new lease of life on the greens after switching last week in Spain to a putter designed by Harold Swash.

Padraig Harrington, whose next commitment is defending the World Cup in New Zealand with Paul McGinley on November 19-22, birdied five times but bogeyed the 17th to settle for a 70.

Another former Walker Cup amateur, Gordon Sherry of Scotland, set aside his frustration at failing to pre-qualify for the Tour School with a solid 71 after qualifying for the event as the Mauritius Open champion.

Racing results

BRIGHTON

12.30 (6f) 1, FACILE TIGRE, P Doe (12–1); **2, Half Tone** (14–1); **3, Harrycz Future** (7–1); **4, Stately Princess** (15–2). 11–2 fav Newlands Corner. 16 ran. N, 3, sh hd. (B Grey Tote: £14.60; £3.40; £2.60; £1.10. £3.40. Dual F: £77.80. CSF: £106.98. Tricast: £631.06.

1.00 (6f) 1, FULL SCALITE, G Duffield (3–1); **2, Uay** (11–4 fav); **3, Coughlan's Gift** (33–1) 9 ran. 1¼, 1¾ (W Haggas) Tote: £3.80; £1.60; £1.80; £3.50. Dual F: £9.20. CSF: £10.54. NR: Grecian Tale.

1.30 (6f) 1, VINTAGE PRIDE, Dane O'Neill (7–4 fav); **2, Bartholomew** (9–2); **3, Kingstree** (7–2). 10 ran. 7, sh hd. (R Hannon) Tote: £2.90; £1.30; £1.80. £1.80. Dual F: £3.80. CSF: £9.92.

2.00 (1m) 1, SPITZBERGEN, D Holland (5–4 fav); **2, West Esopus** (5–1); **3, Stone Lady** (10–1). 9 ran. 1¾, 2¼ (M Johnston) Tote: £2.00; £1.10; £1.30; £2.20. Dual F: £3.70. CSF: £5.31. Tricast: £26.64. NR: Beryl Colwoody, Why Worry Now.

2.40 (1m 3f 199yds) 1, BLUEWAIN LADY, G Duffield (5–1); **2, Gee Bee Sixy** (12–1); **3, Mulandia** (33–1). 7–4 fav Zora 12 ran. 1, 8, (P Harris) Tote: £7.10; £2.30; £4.80. £7.20. Dual F: £60.40. CSF: £68.65.

3.00 (1m 2f) 1, CONSPICUOUS, A Daly (25–1); **2, Grinkov** (10–1); **3, Topatori** (16–1); **4, Pahl** (14–1). 9–4 fav Vicious Circle 19 ran. Nk, 2¼, 2. (L Cottrell) Tote: £23.10; £3.70; £2.60; £3.80. Dual F: £185.60. CSF: £244.75. Tricast: £3,603.68. NR: Double Jet.

3.30 (7f) 1, INKWELL, R Brisland (14–1); **2, Tyrrwhitt** (10–1); **3, Overstrikeit** (15–2). 5–4 fav Contrary Mary. 16 ran. Hd, 1¼. (G L Moore) Tote: £20.60; £4.80, £3.40; £3.90. Dual F: £77.40. CSF: £148.06.

4.00 (6f) 1, INDIAN BLAZE, N Pollard (7–1); **2, Alcalim** (7–2); **3, Prince Zando** (16–1); **4, Oriel Girl** (5–1 fav). 18 ran. 1¾, ¾, 2¾. (D Elsworth) Tote: £10.10; £2.10; £1.90. £2.80. £1.40. Dual F: £19.30. CSF: £31.63. Tricast: £310.91.

PLACEPOT: £116.40.
QUADPOT: £51.40.
JACKPOT: Not won. £28,098.15 carried over to Doncaster today.

HAYDOCK

1.10 (5m Hdle) 1, CHARLIE'S GOLD, A P McCoy (2–1); **2, Premium Guest** (12–1); **3, Court Ordeal** (14–1). 15–8 fav Thanks Keith. 8 ran. 11, 4. (A Bailey) Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £6.70, £2.90. Dual F: £47.00. CSF: £23.95.

1.40 (2m 4f Hdle) 1, HEY GRIN, Mr J Crowley (6–2); **2, No More Hassle** (4–7 fav); **3, Menehaur** (11–2) 3 ran. 2¼, dist (Mrs S Smith) Tote: £3.50 Dual F: £1.60 CSF: £4.10.

2.10 (2m Hdle) 1, SAINT CIEL, A Maguire (9–2); **2, Belfad Minstrel** (4–1); **3, Sticky Hammer** (7–2). 14 ran. Sht hd, ¾. (Mrs A Thaves. 7 ran hk, 2¼ (F Jordan) Tote: £4.40, £1.70, £3.00. Dual F: £10.90. CSF: £21.29

2.40 (2m Chs) 1, THE HERB, T J Murphy (9–1); **2, Golden Relic** (7–4 fav), **3, Parish** (7–2). 8 ran. 5, 8. (D McCain) Tote: £9.80; £1.90, £1.60. Dual F: £4.30. CSF: £18.96.

3.10 (3m Hdle) 1, SYRACUSE (9–1), A P McCoy (1–3 fav); **2, Aztec Flyer** (5–1); **3, Smart Bullet** (50–1). 8 ran 7. 8. (J FitzGerald) Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £1.40. £3.10. Dual F: £2.50. CSF: £2.46.

3.40 (2m 4f Chs) 1, GRATE DEEL, S Durack (4–1); **2, Lothian Commander** (16–1). Only two finished. 4–6 fav A-El-Ose. 7 ran 17. (Mrs S Bevis) Tote: £2.90; £1.50. £2.20 Dual F: £8.90. CSF: £16.93.

4.10 (3m Plat) 1, GENTLE RIVAGE, J Goldstein (2–1 fav); **2, Mr Bishop** (4–1); **3, Kalanta** (10–1). 12 ran 12. 4 (N Twiston-Davies) Tote: £2.40; £1.30, £2.00, £2.80 Dual F: £9.20. CSF: £9.92.

PLACEPOT: £136.30.
QUADPOT: £17.10.

TOWCESTER

1.20 (5m Hdle) 1, MONICA'S CHOICE, P Niven (2–1 fav); **2, Sound Robbo** (7–1); **3, March Harlequin** (12–1). 9 ran. 17, 4. (Mrs M Revaley) Tote: £1.40; £1.00, £2.10, £6.10 Dual F: £3.20. CSF: £3.76.

1.50 (3m 1f) Chs 1, GAELIC BLUE, G F Ryan (2–1); **2, Fortunes Course** (6–5 fav); **3, Loch Sarmon Hotel** (5–2) 5 ran 12. dist. (Mrs S Smith) Tote: £2.70. Dual F: £1.60 CSF: £4.39

2.20 (1m Hdle) 1, WHISPERING COURT, M Griffiths (10–1); **2, Mapleton** (12–1); **3, Come On Ellish** (7–2) 11–4 fav Lochsherry Express. 8 ran 1¼, 1¾. (A Turnell) Tote: £10.70; £3.60, £2.50; £1.10. Dual F: £72.60 CSF: £109.66. Tricast: £459.89

2.50 (1m 110yds Chs) 1, KUNAKKA, R Johnson (7–2); **2, Collier Bay** (1–3 fav); **3, Purple Ace** (10–1) 5 ran 15, dist. (J Gifford) Tote: £3.80, £1.90, £1.10. Dual F: £1.60 CSF: £6.00

3.20 (2m Hdle) 1, DARK ROMANCE, C Maude (20–1); **2, Country Haven** (7–2); **3, Queen's Ride** (16–1) 10–11 fav Alta. 14 ran 3. 2 (Miss Z Davison) Tote: £55.70; £9.50, £1.50. £4.60 Dual F: £121.90. CSF: £89.29

3.50 (2m 5f Hdle) 1, WHO AM I, A Thornton (7–2); **2, Nelsaun** (11–4 fav); **3, Diddy Rymer** (12–1). 8 ran 7. 3. (R Alner) Tote: £3.60; £1.70, £2.60. £2.10 Dual F: £8.60 CSF: £12.63 Tricast: £87.51

PLACEPOT: £123.90
QUADPOT: £38.20

● Former champion hurdler Collier Bay made a disappointing start to his career over fences when beaten on his debut in the Barclaycard Novices Chase at Towcester yesterday. Starting 3-1 on, the gelding went down by a length and a half to Kunakka. Jockey Mick Fitzgerald said: 'He was idle and uncompetitive throughout.'

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UTTOXETER	142	152
HEXHAM	143	153
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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Results

Football

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP
Second-round, second leg
Besiktas 3 Valencaya 3 (agg: 5–6); Vertex Varazdin 4 Hearnwyam 2 (aet: 2–1 after 90min. agg: 5–5); Panathinaikos Athens 1 Apollon Limassol 0 (agg: 4–2); Maccabi Haifa 4 Rad 1 (agg: 5–3); Braga 1 Lokomotiv Moscow 0 (agg: 2–0).

COPA MERCOSUR: Quarter-finals, second legs: Boca Juniors (Arg) 1 Palmeiras (Br) 1 (agg: 2–0); Olimpia (Par) 2 Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 1 (agg: 6–4).

Tennis

ATP INDOOR TOURNAMENT (Paris) **Third round:** Y Kafelnikov (Rus) bt T Henman (GB) 6–3, 6–7, 7–6, M Philippoussis (Aus) bt K Kucera (Slovak) 6–4, 4–6, 7–6; M Rios (Chile) bt V Spadea (US) 7–5, 6–4; M Dosiafasse (Swe) bt T Haas (Ger) 6–4, 6–2, G Rusedski (GB) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 7–6, 6–4; T Martin (US) bt P Reher (Aus) 3–7, 7–6, 7–6.

WTA LEIPZIG OPEN: Second rounds: A Huber (Ger) bt B Schett (Aut) 6–3, 3–6, 6–3; S Spirlea (Rom) bt M Serna (Sp) 7–6, 6–3, B Pitkowski (Fr) bt A Coetzer (SA) 6–3, 7–6. **Quarter-finals:** D van Roost (Bel) bt N Zvereva (Bela) 6–3, 3–6, 6–2.

Basketball

EUROLEAGUE: Group B: Efes Pilsen 82 Maroussi 74; **Group D:** KK Zadar 73 Ulkerspor 65, CSKA Moscow 86 Alba Berlin 75. **Group D:** Villeurbanne 92 Samara 69.

Cricket

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Second day: Melbourne New South Wales 390 (C Richards 161) Victoria 165–2 (D Elliott 106).

Hockey

MEN'S CHAMPIONS' TROPHY (Lahore) Australia 3 Spain 1; Germany 3 South Korea 3

Ice Hockey

NHL: Washington 2 Tampa Bay 5; NY Rangers 1 Montreal 4; Toronto 3 Colorado 0, Florida 2 Chicago 1, Edmonton 3 Nashville 2, San Jose 4 Dallas 0, Anaheim 1 St Louis 3.

Motor Sport

AUSTRALIAN RALLY: Opening super special stage: 1=, T Mardrem (Fin) Mitsubishi, D Auriol (Fr) Toyota 1min 32sec. 3, C Saino (Ita) Toyota 1.32.5, 4, J Kankkunen (Fin) Ford 1.32.6; 5, F Loix (Bel) Toyota 1.33.1, 6, C McRae (GB) Subaru 1.33.4, 7, R Burns (GB) Mitsubishi 1.33.6; 8, B Thiry (Bel) Ford 1 33.8, 9, N Bates (Aus) Toyota 1.34.6; 10, P Liatti (It) Subaru 1.34.2

Snooker

BENSON AND HEDGES CHAMPIONSHIP (Malvern): Second round: A Hicks (Eng) bt I Glover (Eng) 5–0; D Mehta (Eng) bt L Dodd (Eng) 5–2, J Cundy (Eng) bt J Price (Nz) 5–4; S Prest (Eng) bt J Mishra (Eng) 5–2; G Chibeott (Wales) bt C Smart (Scot) w/o; A Higginson (Eng) bt J Perry (Eng) 5–1; N Henderson (Scot) bt N Spellman (Eng) 5–1; B Horne (Scot) bt D Gilbert (Wales) 5–2; J Burnett (Scot) bt S Meghani (Eng) 5–3; M Pearce (Eng) bt P Carney (Eng) 5–1; N Dyson (Eng) bt M Price (Eng) 5–3; N Holt (Eng) bt S Storey (Eng) 5–3, P Sweeney (Ire) bt P Hunter (Eng) 5–1, P Walker (Eng) bt B Pinches (Eng) 5–3; M Vaughan (Eng) bt S An 5–0; A Burden (Eng) bt M Street (Eng) 5–0

Squash

WOMEN'S WORLD OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP (Stuttgart): Second rounds: S Bring (Eng) bt C Wilson (SA) 9–4, 9–1, 4–9, 9–5; S Horner (Eng) bt L Irving (Aus) 9–2, 9–0, 7–9, 9–6, L Joyce (NZ) bt J Martin (Eng) 9–1, 9–0, 9–5; M Martin (Aus) bt T Greaves (Eng) 9–4, 9–3, 9–0, 9–3; N Grainger (SA) bt S Scholes (Ger) 9–4, 9–0, 9–3; S Fitz-Gerald (Aus) bt T Bailey (Eng) 9–4, 9–0, 9–3

Fixtures

Football

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second Division: Colchester v Macclesfield (7.45) **FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier Division:** St Patricks Ath v Bray Wndrs (7.45); Shelbourne v Waterford (7.45).

Rugby Union

EUROPEAN CUP: Pool A: Leinster v Llanelli (6.30, Donnybrook)

Sport in brief

Motor Sport

Colin McRae, driving a Subaru, made a subdued start to the Rally Australia yesterday, settling for sixth place on the first special stage of today's mile, *writes David Williams in Perth*. The Scot almost certainly needs to win for the second year running to retain any hope of becoming world champion.

Rugby Union

Ed Morrison, Steve Lander and Chris White have accepted invitations to become full-time professional referees, the Rugby Football Union announced yesterday, *writes Robert Armstrong*. Morrison is the only official to have refereed World Cup finals for both men (1995) and women (1998), and Lander was in charge of the World Sevens final in 1997.

Ice Hockey

Peterborough Pirates have signed the 27-year-old Danish international netminder Jan Jenson, who has been playing for the Italian club Vipiteno-Stirling, *writes Vic Batchelder*.

Cricket

John Snow, the former Sussex and England fast bowler, has been elected vice-chairman of the Hove-based club.

هكذا من الأصل

Doncaster Jackpot card with guide to the form

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
12.30	Ettrick	Ettrick
1.00	Dancing King	Yakareem
1.30	Happy Lady	Ramsey
2.00	Craigsteel	Craigsteel
2.30	Diamond White	Mondschein
3.00	Piccolo Cativo	Piccolo Cativo
3.30	Trio	Trio
4.00	Tread Softly	Dashiba's Lad

Left-handed, galloping track of 1m7f with 4½f run-in. Straight mile. Going: Good to soft, soft in places. ★ Denotes blinkers. Drawn: Low numbers favoured up to 7f. Seven day winners: 4.00 Sound's Ace. Blinkered first time: 1.00 Hello Goodbye; 2.30 Mondschein. Visored: None.

12.30 C.I.S.W.O. MAIDEN STAKES 2YO (Div 1) 7f £3,811 (20 declared)

1.00 C.I.S.W.O. MAIDEN STAKES 2YO (Div 2) 7f £3,811 (20 declared)

1.30 GIBSON BOOTH MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 6f £4,170 (22 declared)

2.00 CPL INDUSTRIES CONDITIONS STAKES 1m 6f 132yds £5,588 (4 declared)

2.30 RJB MINING LIONHEART FILLIES' CONDITIONS STAKES 1m 2f 60yds £5,892 (8 declared)

3.00 49'S DRANSFIELD NOVELTY COMPANY H'CAP (SHOWCASE AND TRIFECTA) 5f £9,585 (22 declared)

3.30 CO-OPERATIVE BANK STAKES 2YO 1m Straight £5,098 (6 declared)

4.00 AMCO CORPORATION H'CAP 2YO 5f £3,811 (21 declared)

Hexham (N.H.)

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
12.50	Fenwick's Brother	Fenwick's Brother
1.20	High Island	Made Of Steel
1.50	King's Country	Meltemison
2.20	Royal Curragh	Bombadil
2.50	Warrlin	Warrlin
3.20	Plumbob	Dissington Times
3.50	Willa Thyne	—

Oval, left-handed circuit of 1½m with 220yds run-in. Undulating course that becomes very testing when the ground is soft. Going: Heavy. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rating. Seven day winners: None. Blinkered first time: None. Visored: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Flat.

12.50 KEOGHANS ALE COND H'CAP CHASE 2m 4f 110yds £3,002 (10 declared)

1.20 BUCHANAN ALES MAIDEN CHASE 3m 1f £2,842 (13 declared)

1.50 FEDERATION BREWERY MEDALLION LAGER NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE 2m 110yds £2,632 (6 declared)

2.20 FEDERATION BREWERY NOVICE HURDLE 2m 4f 110yds £2,553 (11 declared)

2.50 BOYZONTOOWA HANDICAP HURDLE 2m £2,193 (11 declared)

3.20 FEDERATION BREWERY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 4f 110yds £2,128 (12 declared)

3.50 DONCASTER BLOODSTOCK SALES/EBF MARES OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT 2m £1,193 (9 declared)

Uttoxeter (N.H.)

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
1.10	Twisted Logic	Rockcliffe Gossip (nap)
1.40	Riches To Rags	Riches To Rags
2.10	Dragons Bay	If Only
2.40	Hitchhiker	Hitchhiker (nb)
3.10	Donnybrook (nap)	Donnybrook
3.40	Kadou Nonantais	
4.10	Smart Spirit	Smart Spirit

Left-handed oval track of 1½m with 170yds run-in. Going: Soft, good to soft in places. ★ Denotes blinkers. Seven day winners: None. Blinkered first time: 4.10 Gunner B Special. Visored: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Flat.

1.10 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN MAIDEN HURDLE 2m 6f 110yds £2,537 (15 declared)

1.40 NOVICE SELLING HURDLE 2m 4f 110yds £1,627 (11 declared)

2.10 BANKS'S NO 9 NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE 2m 4f £3,282 (10 declared)

2.40 MIDROADS HANDICAP HURDLE 3m 110yds £2,463 (18 declared)

3.10 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 4f 110yds £2,379 (8 declared)

3.40 UNDERGEAR EQUIPMENT NOVICE CHASE 2m £3,668 (10 declared)

4.10 NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE 2m £2,421 (13 declared)



attempt themselves, a harmless drive yards too high by Andrei Kanchelskis.

Erik Meijer was first to threaten, taking Ulf Kirsten's downward header and, from 18 yards, sending a low shot against Lionel Charbonnier's knees. The Danish striker was to leave the French goalkeeper in a greater sweat shortly.

Adam Matysek made a long clearance straight to Meijer, who bolted down the left, cut inside and sent a low, left-foot cross-cum-shot inches wide of the far post.

In the 16th minute, though, he really should have scored when Stefan Beinlich's cross from the left found Kirsten, whose header sent the ball to Meijer on the six-yard line. But a hurried volley cleared the bar.

Rangers' greatest problem during the first half was gaining possession and they had to rely on a set piece for their closest effort. Lorenzo Amoruso chipped to Rod Wallace, whose header found Jonatan Johansson. But the Finn, like the Dane, volleyed over. At least he had the excuse of being strongly challenged.

On the stroke of half-time Johansson missed another chance, heading high and wide from a delightful cross from Wallace. He was to make amends 12 minutes into the second half when Rangers, having been largely outplayed, took the lead.

The goal started from a German attack. Amoruso made a sweeping clearance from the edge of his box and Jan Heintze, stretching to intercept in midfield, pushed the ball into the path of Johansson. The striker had options as team-mates rushed to support but he moved the ball to his right foot and sent a wonderful drive from 20 yards high to the left of Matysek.

It was a salutary lesson for the Germans, who had watched Beinlich send his drive from similar range over the bar. Though they had outwitted Rangers in most areas of play, they had failed to convert opportunities. For all their sweeper system, with the captain Jens Nowotny pushing out of defence and giving huge midfield authority, it was not enough, as Johansson showed.

Rangers (4-4-2): Charbonnier; Porrini, Hendry, Amoruso, Numan; Kanchelskis, B Ferguson, Van Bronckhorst, Albertz; Wallace, Johansson.

Bayer Leverkusen (4-4-2): Matysek; R Kovac, Happe, Nowotny, Reeb; Ramelow, Heintze, Zé Roberto, Beinlich; Meijer, Kirsten.

Referee: L Batista (Portugal).

Referee revokes Ndlovu red card

ROB STYLES, the referee who sent off the Birmingham striker Peter Ndlovu last Saturday after booking him twice for diving, has withdrawn one of the cautions after studying a video of the match.

This spares Ndlovu automatic suspension but cannot alter the result, a 1-1 draw at home to Huddersfield. Ndlovu had given Birmingham the lead after 63 minutes. Marcus Stewart equalised eight minutes later, immediately after the dismissal, when Birmingham were still regrouping.

After the match the Birmingham manager Trevor Francis spoke of "the worst decision I've seen in nearly 30 years in football". He said the referee had effectively accused Ndlovu of cheating and "anyone who knew Peter would tell you he was one of the most genuine players around.

"From what I've seen on the television replay the Huddersfield player made a two-footed tackle and we should have had a penalty."

While Francis pressed Styles to study video evidence and reconsider his decisions, Birmingham's joint owner David Sullivan threatened to sue the referee and the Football Association unless the decision was overturned.

The FA spokesman Steve Double said yesterday: "The referee asked us if he could look at the video and in particular the incident that led to the second booking for ungentlemanly conduct. He decided, from the view shown on the video, that contact may have been made [by the Huddersfield defender Kevin Gray] and therefore he wishes to withdraw the second caution. The first caution stands."

Sullivan welcomed Styles's decision. "We accept that in all football matches referees do make mistakes on the spur of the moment," he said, "and sadly this mistake probably affected the result of the game. However, we thank Mr Styles and the Football Association for reversing this decision and having the common sense to do that."

The human face of football was also evident at Sunderland, five points clear of Birmingham at the top of the First Division, where the manager Peter Reid has granted his midfielder Alex Rae indefinite leave to sort out his private life. "Alex's welfare comes first," Reid said. "He has a few personal problems and has gone away to sort them out." Rae has missed Sunderland's last two games and is not training with the club.

Up front
Niall Quinn

Pooled talents better than one-man rule

THIS has been some seven days for Liverpool Football Club. After the defeat at Leicester City on Saturday another was expected in Valencia on Tuesday night and, though Liverpool instead progressed to the last 16 of the Uefa Cup, whoever draws them this lunchtime will face them minus Paul Ince and Steve McManaman.

Life is difficult enough for Roy Evans and Gérard Houllier without that handicap, especially as Liverpool's joint managers have just experienced another week with their professional relationship under the microscope. Who picks the team? Who organises training? Who is responsible for tactics? These are all questions being asked by the media and on the terraces at Anfield, and more than once I have heard the phrase "management by committee" used as a criticism.

I think this reflects more on the critics than it does on the managerial set-up at Liverpool because, as anyone within football will tell you, all managerial set-ups are partnerships to an extent and all managers make decisions after consulting trusted colleagues.

Indeed, nowhere has this been more evident than at Liverpool where, famously, Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley both relied greatly on their back-room staffs. Yet no one ever spoke of the Anfield bootroom disparagingly as management by committee, even though that surely is what it was.

Today, however, if Evans consults Houllier about a player or a given situation it is labelled indecision. In the past it was called common sense or delegation. I must admit that I am commenting from afar but it strikes me that the two men have a good rapport and healthy respect for each other.

So when people ask, "But which of them says Michael Owen or Robbie Fowler should be on the bench?" my answer is, "Do you not think Alex Ferguson consults Brian Kidd about the same thing at Manchester United?"

Of course he does, just as at Sunderland Peter Reid asks Bobby Saxton, just as Brian Clough asked Peter Taylor. Football does have a structured hierarchy and there are boundaries between people, but there is also plenty of flexibility and room for overlapping. Any time I sat on the bench for Ireland it was noticeable how much of an input Maurice Setters, Jack Charlton's No. 2, had on key decisions during a game, such as substitutions. Jack always had the option to ignore Maurice but rarely did so.

Does Roy ignore Gérard, or vice versa? Only those who witness their most private exchanges can say what their relationship is exactly, but when the two are on the bench together they appear comfortable with each other.

It should not be forgotten either that they have not worked together long and that Liverpool are trying something new. There is the possibility that it will fail — although the first week in November is no time to be making a judgment on that — but the club have seen the beneficial effects of Ruud Gullit and Gianluca Vialli at Chelsea and Arsène Wenger at Arsenal.

Wenger's position at Arsenal also offers an illustration of sharing and shared responsibility. When he was appointed he must have looked around at possible assistants/partners, seen Pat Rice, a man steeped in Arsenal and trusted by the players, and thought: "He will do for me."

In return Rice will have given loyalty and, more important, insight into everything Arsenal. Then whatever decision had to be made, Wenger would make it with the benefit of Rice's knowledge.

If, as has been suggested in certain quarters, Liverpool's board want to move Evans sideways then surely they would have been sufficiently businesslike to perform a complete overhaul in the summer. Ruthlessness is not alien to Anfield and, if in several weeks' time the team are judged to be underachieving, Houllier will have to take his share of the responsibility.

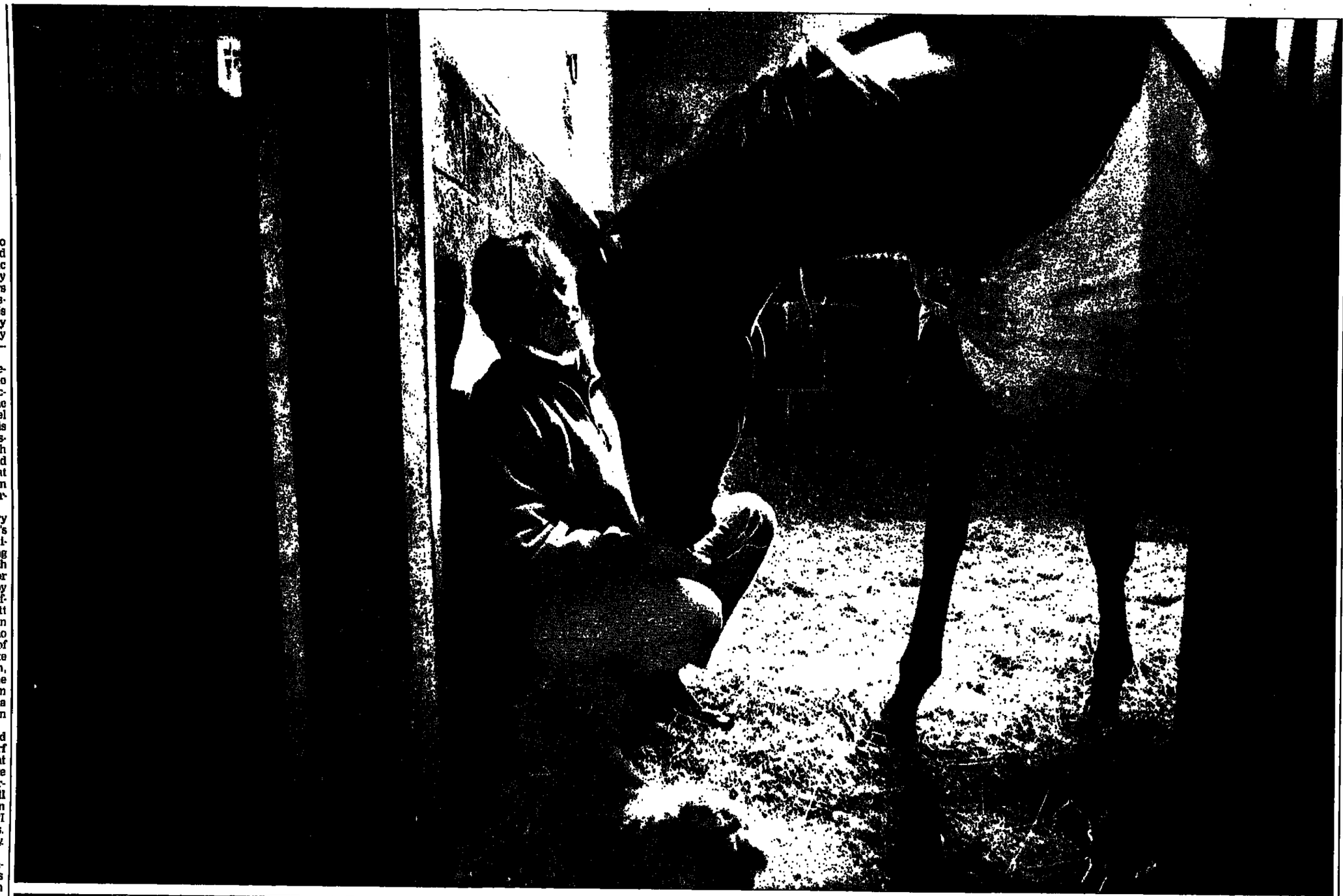
AS THINGS stand, I view Evans as the 51 per cent senior partner. Some might infer that his authority has dropped from 100 per cent since Houllier's arrival but, as I have said, Evans's decision-making in the past will not have been done in isolation.

It is just that now Evans has someone of almost equal stature to consider, and after what Houllier has achieved in the game that is the way it has to be. Focusing on their differences of opinion is one natural way to observe them, but it is just as instructive to look at what they agree on and where they learn from each other.

It is called teamwork. Or, if you like, management by committee. And it can work. But it must be given a chance.

Another thoroughbred finds odds too high

With Julie Cecil handing in her licence tomorrow, Phil Rostron reports on the changes in British horse racing that are forcing out the old-style Classics trainers



JULIE CECIL, who has been associated with more Classic successes than any other trainer, bows out of her profession tomorrow. Her plight is the same as that of many trainers who have recently handed in their licences — lack of finance.

For Cecil, this is a new experience. Since childhood she has been associated with racing's elite, both on and off the course. Her father was Noel Murless, the best trainer of his generation, who won 19 Classics including the Derby with St Paddy and Royal Palace, and whose stables were housed at the palatial Warren Place in the heart of racing's headquarters at Newmarket.

In 1968 Julie married Henry Cecil who assumed Murless's mantle at Warren Place, similarly dominating the training profession with horses such as the Triple Crown winner On So Sharp and the Derby winners Slip Anchor and Reference Point. Lester Piggott and Steve Cauthen were given a leg-up by the Cecils, who were courted by the likes of the London property magnate Lord Howard de Walden, Sheikh Mohammed from the newly oil-rich Dubai, and Jim Joel, whose family amassed a fortune from South African diamond mines.

For Julie Cecil, that world ends tomorrow at the last Turf Flat meeting of the season at Doncaster. Her departure from the training ranks is perhaps the most poignant of all those who have handed in their licences this year: "I can't make it pay," she says. "Sadly, it's time to call it a day. The party is over."

It is apt that Cecil's Southgate yard, from where she has trained since the split with her husband in 1990, is being sold to a representative of the new breed of trainer, Nick Littmoden, who was formerly based at the all-weather racing centres at Southwell and Wolverhampton where moderate horses run for moderate prize money, primarily for syndicate owners. The switch in personnel says much about the current trends in racing.

Cecil and her bread specialised in the painstaking preparation of a horse for its racing career. Patience was the trademark of both trainer and owner who, with one eye on the Classics the following year, would plan a limited two-year campaign for their horses. The accent was very much on quality rather than quantity in terms of races contested, and big prize money, with an eventual stud career uppermost in their thoughts. The decline in the number of owners who can afford to support a string of horses in that way, plus the continuing prize money crisis in this country, is forcing people like Cecil out of the game.

"After such a long time riding out the horses which came to both my father and Henry with the best of breeding, horses who could really go through the gears and quicken up beautifully when you asked them, I have been dealing mostly at Southgate with horses whose legs would drop off if you asked them to go at the pace I was used to," Cecil says.

"Father will have been turning in his grave at the way racing has changed since he departed 15 years ago. He would be apoplectic about lads looking after five horses these days. It was always known in his day as 'doing their two'. I feel very sorry for youngsters starting out now. A third of the boxes in Newmarket are empty, and unless you have got 30 yearlings coming in each season, even into a medium-sized yard, it is so very difficult to make racing pay. Very few people are privileged to have that intake."

In eight years' training at Southgate, Cecil has sent out 194 winners. Her first success, with Lord Howard de Walden's Golan Heights, gave rise to "a bit of a party". The next party she hosts will signal her retirement from training and a move to riding out for her neighbouring trainer William Jarvis, a former assistant to Henry Cecil.

The split with Henry, which resulted in the loss of Warren Place in the divorce settlement, remains an event which Cecil finds too painful to discuss, though she does say: "You survive. Scum floats, doesn't it? I spent that first summer pottering around and riding out with the lads, having some fun. I am still friendly with Henry, who was kind enough to make the offer that if I wanted to gallop a few horses of mine with his then I was welcome to do so."

Littmoden, meanwhile, is straining at the bit to start at Southgate. The 35-year-old has made quite an impact on the all-weather scene and is well aware of the different requirements of the trainer in the modern age.

He says: "Racing has become a leisure industry in which owners pay to see their horses run on a regular basis rather than visit them in their boxes on a Sunday afternoon. Notions on breeding have changed too, with the accent today more on the spawning of sharp two-year-olds than the time-hallowed milers and middle-distance horses."

Henry Cecil once said of Julie: "People in a position to be far more objective about her than me will tell you that she has the best sense of humour in Newmarket."

That sometimes wicked way will certainly be missed. Three times Cecil got horse's names through the notoriously strict checking regime policed by the Jockey Club secretariat at Weatherbys. The monickers that raised a smile among racing followers were Jo Blob, Mary Hinge and Betty Swallocks.

All, in case you were wondering, were spoonerisms.



Last sitting . . . Julie Cecil, left, and at her Southgate yard with her favourite horse, Kingfisher Mill, says she can no longer afford to continue as a trainer

PHOTOGRAPHS: TOM JENKINS

Three who failed to last the distance

Lord Huntingdon

It caused quite a stir when the Queen split with Major Dick Hern in 1991 and installed Lord Huntingdon (top right) in her West Ilsley stable. Three Ascot Gold Cups followed in Huntingdon's first three seasons there, but for the past three years the royal trainer has struggled. "The overheads are enormous," said Huntingdon, last month, when he announced his decision to quit. "I had not made a big



three years ago but since then I have been out of pocket."

Bob Champion

Champion (below right), who beat cancer and then rode to Grand National fame on Aldaniti in 1981, began training at Newmarket in 1982. Over the past few seasons he has seen his stable dwindle to just six horses. "It would be financially suicide to carry on," said Champion last month when he told his owners he was running. "It's actually made a profit for the last few years as I've not enough to buy a new yard."

Gerry Oldroyd

The 52-year-old (left) found better horses far more profitable than trained them.





JUST OUT

My Name Is Joe
★★★★
Dir: Ken Loach. With Peter Mullan, Louise Goodall, David McKay. 105 mins, cert 15

Snake Eyes
★★★★
Dir: Brian De Palma. With Nicolas Cage, Gary Sinise, Kevin Dunn. 99 mins, cert 15

Antz
★★★★
Dirs: Eric Darnell & Tim Johnson. With the voices of Woody Allen, Sharon Stone, Christopher Walken, Gene Hackman, Anne Bancroft, Danny Glover, Sylvester Stallone, Jennifer Lopez, Dan Aykroyd. 83 mins, cert PG.

The Players Club
★½
Dir: Ice Cube. With LisaRaye, Chrystale Wilson, Monica Calhoun. 103 mins. Cert 18

Girls Town
★
Dir: Jim McKay. With Lili Taylor, Bruklin Harris, Anna Grace. 90 mins, cert 15.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

1 My Name Is Joe
Love, life and the worst football team in Glasgow: Ken Loach's Cannes winner lives up to expectations.

2 Antz
A star-studded cast sheds its vanity in DreamWorks's lavish computer-animated feature.

3 La Vie Rêvée Des Anges
Elodie Bouchez and Natacha Régnier illuminate Erick Zonca's script.

4 East Side Story
A serious look at laughter behind the Iron Curtain. The story of socialist musicals, it unearths some eccentric song-and-dance routines.

5 Snake Eyes
Nicolas Cage is at his sleazy best in Brian De Palma's suspense thriller.

★★★★★ Unmissable
★★★★ Recommended
★★★ Enjoyable
★★ Mediocre
★ Terrible





Gaby Wood applauds the unflinching humanity of Ken Loach's great new film

The Glasgow kiss

FILM OF THE WEEK: MY NAME IS JOE

In a recent interview, Ken Loach said of a certain kind of photography that there was "no solidarity between the camera and the person". Much has been made of Loach's politics, but this comment about solidarity shows how subtle, diffuse and encompassing his politics really are. Here is a film-maker who can see solidarity, or the lack of it, in all kinds of places — between friends, lovers, fictional characters; between camera and actor, actor and audience, camera and viewer.

It is this intense loyalty, in all its seeping manifestations, which binds together his brilliant new film, My Name Is Joe. Peter Mullan, whose performance won him the Best Actor award at Cannes this year, plays Joe Kavanagh, an unemployed alcoholic who's finally getting himself together. There's nothing to pity in Joe, he's pure determination and cheek — the leader of his pack, a joker, a chancer. He has no family but his football team, a hilariously sorry bunch renowned for being the worst team in Glasgow. He meets Sarah (Louise Goodall), a health visitor, and the couple, who seem by turns unlikely and perfect, fall tentatively in love.

In their separate ways, Joe and Sarah are the most vociferous fighters of the miseries of the Glasgow life that surrounds them. Joe's young friend Liam is just out of prison, his girlfriend Sabine is on drugs and on the game, their child could be taken from them. The dole office is after Joe, McGowan's "boys" are after Liam, and round it goes — a relay race of mutual support and artful dodging.

The performances, Mullan's and Goodall's particularly, make the film. But even the word "performance" makes them sound too fake. This realism is one of Loach's trademark, and perhaps most misunderstood, qualities. The more groans come from both the left and the right about the so-called grittiness of his films, the more there seems to be a kind of heroism in his continued belief that cinema is a form in which under-represented lives might be properly shown.

One wonders not that Loach is "still making these films", as his antagonists put it, but whether we've understood what they've been up to all along. Loach might have been a politician or a journalist, but he found in film the most nonconformist possibilities — which must say something about cinema itself. His style is full of unassuming skill, somewhere between feature and documentary, without any of the exertion that implies. It's a kind of sleight-of-hand.

My Name Is Joe is funny in a way that's impossible to describe, since the laughs are so spontaneous they can't be retrieved. But it has a natural buoyancy, and a consistent irony that often stems from the characters' pleasure in their own uselessness — the football team, Joe's dating tactics, and so on. Even at the most agonising moment in the film, Loach makes a helpless laugh unsuppressable: Joe rings his best friend Shanks in desperation and gets the answering machine, which says, "please speak very slowly as this contraption is running too fast".

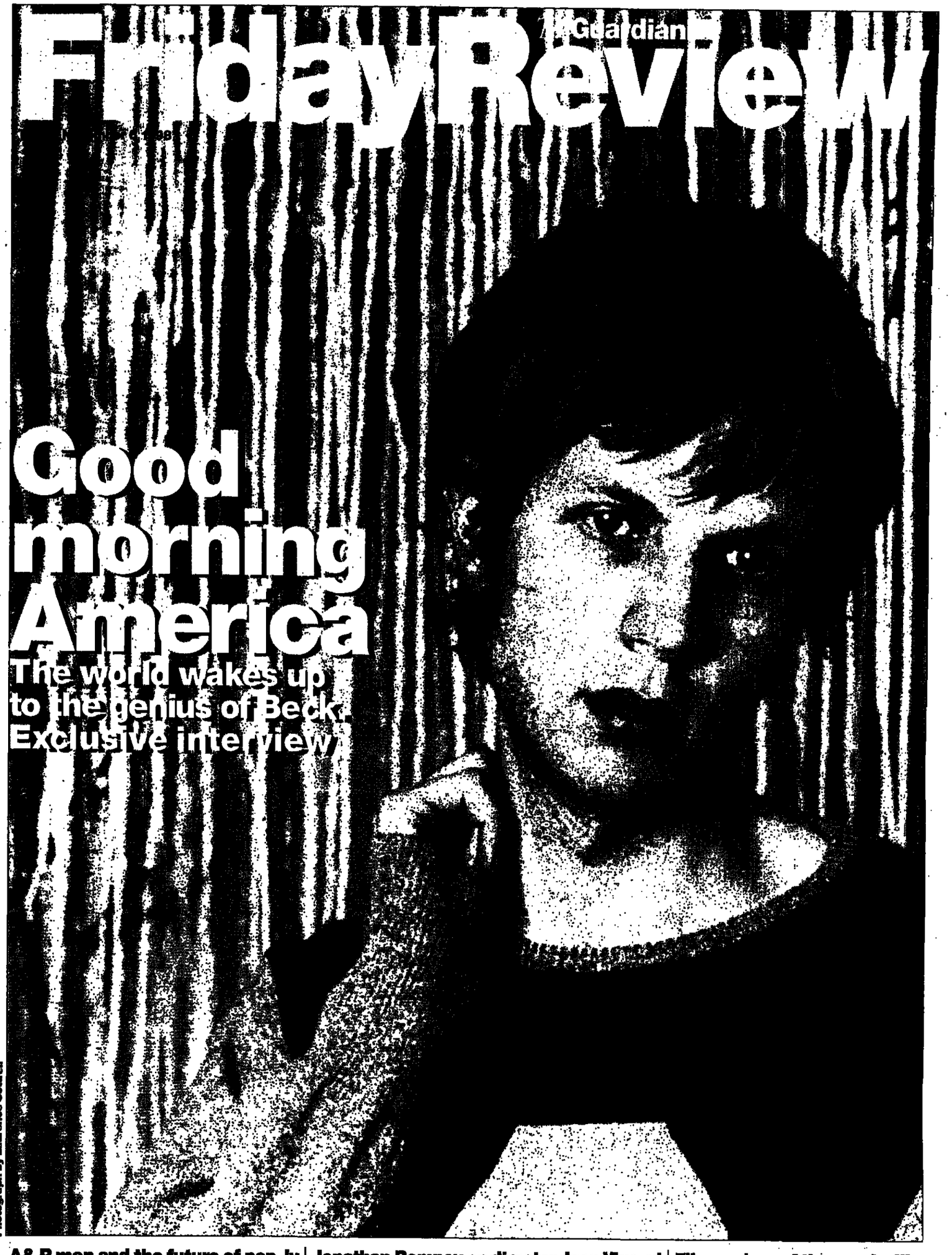
More than almost anything else, the film is a love story. Despite her trepidation about this recovering alcoholic, Sarah is instinctively right about Joe — he's a good man, with a certain smiling ease. She has a past which is delicately held back, we never know what she's been through.

They're both frightened of playing with fire, and, as it turns out, they are open enough to hurt each other enormously. But they're having fun, and for a while their disparity closes up. There is a wonderful brief scene outside Liam and Sabine's flat, when Joe and Sarah cross paths. Sarah is on her way in, holding the couple's baby. Joe has just found Sabine shooting up in the bathroom, and is running to rescue Liam from McGowan's mob. They're both in a frantic rush, each trying to salvage different bits of someone else's family, but Joe stops in the doorway to make sure the kid doesn't see his mum in such a state. The two of them are clutching at straws, making quick-footed attempts to mend what they can, when they can. This is one of the nuggets of solidarity with which the film is rife.

In this love story both Joe and Sarah are open enough to hurt each other hugely

But there are greater loyalties which lead it to its final, tragic inevitability: you realise that if McGowan's boys hadn't threatened to hurt Sarah, none of this would have happened. The laughs can't always cancel out the horrors. One wouldn't expect some Hollywood-style redemption from Loach, no last-minute salvation or feelgood ending. Nevertheless, the fact that there is nothing more, that the unspoken remains unspoken and the disappeared cannot return, feels shocking.

The empathy injected into the film leads us to want something different from what we know to be the only possible conclusion. It's a feeling present in so many of his films — from Kes to Ladybird, Ladybird. The power in Loach's rendition here is to make the inevitable continuation of the everyday seem like an exceptional event. When nothing happens, it feels like something devastating has happened.



A& R men and the future of pop iv | Jonathan Romney on director Jean Vigo vi | Film review of the week viii

Outsiders are not entirely con- the party conference last month.) optimism that by chance a policy shirts on a high street near you. | http://pasenotes.guardian.co.uk: |





These images represent the complete works of one

He's only five foot six, but a century of American music — from delta blues and country to rock and hip hop — is summed up in the phenomenon that is Beck. Oh, and he quite likes his Schubert, too. **Sam Wollaston** hangs with the boy wonder, and his extensive wardrobe, in LA

Little big man

We're in a painfully fashionable LA photo studio called Quixote — all minimalist white and steel and baffling paintings. Beautiful people scuttle around. It being California, there's a bowl of beans to eat — raw, green beans. And fruit.

A man in a black polo neck walks through — wide-eyed, boyish, mousy-blond hair, unshaven but boyish. He doesn't so much walk as lope, in a way tall people do, though he's only about five foot six. He's looking for his lip balm.

"Hello" he says, in deep drawl — too deep for his size, about right for his walk. But it's not my turn yet. Beck needs the lip balm for a photoshoot for a French magazine. The cover no doubt; Beck generally gets the covers of magazines these days. There's a pretty, hippyish girl in jeans and an old purple top helping him with his outfits. She's Leigh, Beck's girlfriend since way before he was getting on the covers of magazines. The old green Volvo outside is Leigh's.

The reason Beck gets on the covers of magazines — apart from the fact that he's a pretty cool geezer — is that he is perhaps the most interesting, original thing going on in popular music right now. Odelay, his last album — an extraordinary hybrid of hip-hop, delta blues, folk, gangsta rap, country, you name it (even Schubert gets a look in) — was top of most people's lists when it came out a couple of years ago. In fact, when there's a list around Beck usually gets to the top of it. He's Rolling Stone magazine's Best Male Performer, Melody Maker's Best Solo Artist, Mojo's best something else and Select's Most Important Person In The World. There's a Grammy for this and a Brit for that.

But it's not just the critics who adore Beck. He's a musician's musician too — and a fairly diverse bunch have come out in praise: Bob Dylan said he had a great future, Johnny Cash that he had "that mountain music in his blood". Then there are Noel Gallagher, Bono, Damon Albarn, John Squire, Cypress Hill and Snoop Dogg (even the rappers don't mind this skinny white kid who stole their music from under their noses). No doubt if Schubert were still around, he would have dug Beck too.

"I just do my thing, and if people are into it, then they are, you know. There's a lot of work put into it, so if people appreciate it, I feel satisfied." Beck speaks slowly and deliberately, like he's just woken up. He says "you know" a lot and pauses between sentences. The pauses can be so long it's hard to know when he's finished saying something — but if he hasn't, he just carries on, even though you might have moved on.





I'm just a country boy — who happens to be a bit of a postmodern sophisticate on the side... the many faces of Beck, from LA slacker to live tyro

PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE COTTRELL; LO MUSTO/LONDON FEATURES

One grandad is an avant-garde artist, the other a Bible-belt preacher

The French photoshoot is over and we've moved into a small room. He sits diagonally on a sofa, slightly awkward — but he seems comfortable in his awkwardness if that's possible. His staring, startled blue eyes focus somewhere in the distance over my head. And he has a new outfit from when I saw him 10 minutes earlier: a scruffy camouflage T-shirt this time and black trousers that appear to have been cut up and sewn back together. "It's just a form of expression," he explains, "I don't think it's that serious."

Beck doesn't care for interviews much. "Oh, they're all right. They're usually the same questions, so it's a challenge to explore saying the same things in different ways. I'm not the type of guy who sits down and goes off on my take on the universe, so it's something I've had to become used to doing. I used to try to deflect things in interviews, and be evasive, but then again it's probably more interesting to hear your honest opinion on how you think the whole puzzle fits together."

In Odelay, you can hear a lot of Beck's 28-year past: dad a bluegrass violinist, mum an actress who'd hung out with Andy Warhol and was heavily into the LA glam punk scene. He was the only white kid in a Latino neighbourhood of LA, but he also had spells with his Presbyterian preacher grandfather in Kansas. He went busking in New York, came back and made Loser, a hip-hop blues song with a singalong chorus that everybody wanted to sing along to. "Soy un perdidor/ I'm a loser baby/ So why don't you kill me?"

Beck was snapped up by Geffen. The resulting album, Mellow Gold, didn't quite live up to Loser's promise. He did a couple of small label albums, and then made Odelay, which seemed to embrace America's entire musical heritage — from Mississippi John Hurt to Cypress Hill, from Dylan to Nirvana via Prince. He puts it better: "It's like accidental chemistry — sneaking into the lab and mixing a bunch of chemicals together and seeing if you can create an explosion."

On stage he's a fanatical minister with a very enthusiastic congregation. He's like Elvis and James Brown and Prince all at once. It's a dazzling party, that explosion he was talking about.

The other grandfather — the one who isn't a Presbyterian preacher — was Al Hansen, an avante-garde artist of the Fluxus anti-movement in the sixties, and Beck's music has often been compared to his work. "I remember him at the dining room table with piles of crap and newspaper ads, cigarette butts, and he was glueing them on to boards and spray-painting them colours, and making these incredible collages." Which is pretty much what Beck does with sounds.

Or did, until now. Now, he's gone back to basics: watercolour landscapes, or still lifes. The new album, Mutations, will disappoint those expecting a follow-up to Odelay. It's a simple, personal, country record, unremarkable even, with none of the wizardry of the Dust Brothers or the hint of a hip-hop beat. One song, Tropicalia is pure Brazilian bossa nova but that's as exciting as it gets. It is more about songwriting than song construction, a step back to before Odelay, to his small label release, One Foot In The Grave, I suggest. "I don't really think of it as a step back, it's just a sort of step aside. Everyone and their mother is using a drum loop and samples and integrating dance culture into pop music and I just, you know, I've become wary of becoming a formula."

The songs have been around for a while, some were recorded for Odelay, they just didn't fit. "I think I got to a point where a certain amount of songs had marinated enough to where they had some flavour and they all worked together. I didn't want to nineties-fy them, I wanted a certain basicness. I think there's an innocence to it, it's something I felt I needed. Also I've always wanted to make a record that was quieter, a record that my girlfriend would listen to."

A nice record, with quiet songs for his girlfriend? What's going on? This doesn't sound like the world's coolest man. Don't worry though, he's already working on what he calls a "party record". And he's going to dumb down it seems, or go primitive at least. "I think it might be liberating for music to become a little duller. We feel a lot of pressures in the nineties to be meaningful, and insightful. Part of me wants to scream. I want to embrace a certain stupidity — not really stupidity, more an enjoyment of being alive in the most basic sense, trying to reach the state where you realise you've taking certain things for granted and you're actually glad to be here — through all the muck and tediousness and letdowns, decrepitude and exhaustion. You can be as philosophical, illuminating or poignant as you want, but there's nothing like those songs that make you want to get up and move yourself around." All quite philosophical, illuminating and poignant if you ask me.

Beck seems to have survived the celebrity thing quite well. The same things make him happy ("seeing a movie with a friend") and angry ("judgmental attitudes, closed minds — you can't get much worse than that"). Things take a little longer to do when everyone thinks they know you; "It's like living in a village — you have to stop and have a five-minute conversation with everybody you run into."

He's a funny guy. I think. His humour seems very dry and a bit wacky — as you'd expect it to be — and sometimes I have no idea if he's being deadly serious or he's taking











Vigo plied his trade to the end. Some people said he'd died of cinema

orchestrating an orgy of riots and food fights, Vigo was less ringmaster than accomplice.

Anything but the stereotype of the doomed artist suffering in seclusion, Vigo was an avid farceur, committed to making the most of his dwindling time. Anecdotes tell of egg fights, practical jokes, of Vigo and Dasté arriving at dinner disguised as pregnant women. Another story has a surgeon sneaking Vigo's crowd into the theatre to take part in an operation on a swollen testicle.

That spirit of farce runs through the films, beginning with A Propos De Nice. This documentary panorama was ostensibly motivated by Vigo's hostility towards a town "dedicated to death"; he meant to expose "the last gasp of a society so lost in escapism that it sickens you". But as Vigo abandons himself to the hedonism of images, the film seems more a celebratory delirium peopled with wildly exotic fauna. The social critique is subverted by its own cartoonish appetite, especially in the famous trick dissolves: the grimacing bather blackened by the sun, the glamour girl stripped bare in six shots. Vigo himself can be seen living it up, jigging along with a gang of soubrettes as they flash their knickers in a bacchic whirl.

The imagery similarly ran away with the little-seen short Taris (1931), in which the camera is supposedly at the service of a swimming champion's brisk lesson in technique. Instead, to a concrete soundtrack of applause and crashing waves, Jean Taris is seen leaping backwards on to the poolside or gurning in slow-motion like a drowning lunatic.

Zéro De Conduite (1933) made Vigo's reputation as an anarchist hero in his own right. It bears the traces of his own schooldays, even down to characters named after his own fellow pupils. The teachers burst from the schoolboy imagination at its most febrile — the dwarf headmaster with his vast beard and matching footmuffler, the creeping housemaster with his vast-brimmed hat and strange, disembodied voice. The visual tricks are wilfully pitched as arbitrary pranks.

Zéro De Conduite's profoundly anti-authoritarian provocation worked only too well. The film's first Paris screening was greeted with hostility and incomprehension. The censors needed little encouragement to ban the film outright, apparently without seeing it. A probable motivation was simply the fact that the director was the son of the still-despised Almereyda.

For Vigo to make another film, his producer Nounez had to find material innocuous enough to evade scandal. He found it in a script — "indisputably lukewarm", Nounez admitted — by one Jean Guinée, about a young couple's travails on a barge called L'Atalante. Once the initially reluctant Vigo had reworked the material, the result was a unique film that still dazzles with its wayward mix of hard realism, eroticism and dream-like fluidity. Skipper Jean (Jean Dasté) and his bride Juliette (Dita Parlo) ply their way along the Paris-Le Havre canal, accompanied by old salt Père Jules (Michel Simon). She decamps to Paris, dazzled by a peddler's patter; the separated couple pine for each other; she's finally brought home by Père Jules.

The story is that simple, yet L'Atalante feels complex and deeply unconventional. It's a tale of female sexuality as much as anything — about Juliette's desire to escape the masculine confinement of the barge, and Jean's inability to do much about it. When she leaves, he goes to pieces, and it's the goatish father figure who retrieves her, having already seduced her symbolically with his travel trophies and louche tattoos.

L'Atalante is a staggering compendium of images: the jar of pickled hands in Jules's cupboard; Jean underwater, seeking out the phantom image of his bride; a multitude of cats, which shoot across the screen in screeching diagonals. The sexuality is explicit: Vigo cuts between Jean and Juliette, sleeping miles apart, tossing and sweating in their beds, as if making love by hot telepathy. The whole is so fluid that we can't always tell whether we're in a world of reality or dreamy abstraction. Truffaut's appraisal of Vigo's achievement hits the mark: "filming prose, he effortlessly obtains poetry".

That wasn't the view of the Gaumont studio. It recut L'Atalante drastically and renamed it Le Chaland Qui Passe (The Passing Barge), after a popular song which was then plastered indiscriminately over the film. Le Chaland passed, leaving little trace. It was only after the war that L'Atalante was rediscovered and Vigo's reputation with it. In 1990, a restoration at last restored something like Vigo's original.

The film-maker himself, having completed L'Atalante in extreme ill-health, finally succumbed to TB in October 1934. On hearing the news, Lydou tried to jump out of their apartment window. She died five years after Vigo.

However consummate his achievement, Vigo was only just getting to grips with a language he reinvented as he acquired it. It's futile to speculate about the unrealised possibilities, but he might have gone on to shoot scripts by the poets Blaise Cendrars and Philippe Soupault, or a Simenon adaptation, or — apparently closest to Vigo's heart — the tale of an anarchist's escape from Devil's Island.

Since 1951, a Prix Jean Vigo has been awarded in France to film-makers with "independence of spirit" — not all of whom have left their mark on film history. Fiery young directors continue to be compared to Vigo, and homages are still paid in celluloid — the barge at the end of Leos Carax's Les Amants Du Pont Neuf must be L'Atalante itself, still plying its phantom trade. Telling the Vigo story is another matter: as Julien Temple's film shows, the life, with its mixture of tragedy, sensation and schoolboy farce, can easily lend itself to hyperbole.

The main thing, though, is how vibrantly Vigo's films still communicate: 60 years on, they can teach nineties film-makers plenty about casting out stale habits of seeing. Even watching Renoir's films of the time, we have to adjust to the fact that they are using the language of thirties cinema. With Vigo, we don't. Paul Ryan, in his new afterword to the Salles Gomes biography, comes close to explaining why: Vigo, he says, saw cinema as "an art form that approximates more closely to music than to theatre, and not at all to literature... Vigo's films form a symphony in four movements." He's the contemporary not only of Renoir and Buñuel, but of Ravel and Stravinsky too.

Vigo: A Passion For Life screens in the LFF on November 15 at the Odeon West End. Jean Vigo by P E Salles Gomes is published by Faber. For the latest information about the London Film Festival turn to the Guardian/LFF website at www.lff.org.uk.

Screen

These images represent the complete works of one of the greatest directors who ever lived...



London Film Festival

But then Jean Vigo was dead at 29, and his output amounted to less than three hours of film. **Jonathan Romney** reports

RUSHES

What has Jennifer Lopez done to upset supermodel Cindy Crawford? This week, Crawford had some catty advice for the snake-wrestling star of Anaconda. 'I don't know if I would have the guts to walk around with that butt,' Crawford told the aptly-titled American magazine Self. 'Is it cultural or what was she given in self-confidence that I wasn't?' Shy and retiring Cindy, you recall, recently appeared butt-naked in Playboy.

French culture has a peculiar way of canonising its heroes, especially if they're intransigent outsiders. France's foremost poetic deity remains a maladjusted teenager who threw in the literary life for a short-lived career in gun-running, Arthur Rimbaud. The film-maker most often compared to him — Jean Vigo — was an anarchist's son who introduced a militant no-budget aesthetic to French cinema some 30 years before the nouvelle vague. Like Rimbaud, Vigo died young; unlike him, he plied his trade till the end. It's even arguable that Vigo died of cinema, felled at 29 by the tuberculosis aggravated by the shooting of his final film, L'Atalante in 1934.

We don't have many sacred relics of the man that Cannes Festival president Gilles Jacob once dubbed "Saint Jean Vigo, Patron Saint of Cine-Clubs". In all, Vigo made less than three hours of film, but they guarantee his place in film's highest pantheon. In 1992, when Sight And Sound magazine last polled international directors for the top films of all time, L'Atalante came fifth. The late Lindsay Anderson voted for another Vigo film, Zéro De Conduite, the avowed inspiration for his own school satire If... Another British director who chose L'Atalante was Julien Temple, of Absolute Beginners fame. He has now made a feature about the director who first fired his own cinophilia — Vigo: A Passion For Life, to be seen in the London Film Festival next week.

"Even more than Vigo's films themselves," says Temple, "I sensed a very modern, independent, rebel attitude that was saying, 'I can make films in the face of any odds — I can make films when I'm 25 or when I'm dying.' "

Vigo has long been acknowledged as a role model for the nouvelle vague directors: François Truffaut proclaimed him one of the first "cinéastes by vocation". But Vigo is also the template of all the tyros ever since who have taken to the streets fancying their camera as a shotgun. He began his career on the hoof, shooting A Propos De Nice (1929) on a second-hand camera bought with money from his father-in-law. Vigo and cameraman Boris Kaufman shot on the promenades and back streets of the Côte d'Azur resort, picking out grotesques in the crowd, staring down somnolent boulevardiers over their newspapers and demitasses. To get their shots, they hid down sewers or concealed the camera under a blanket on Kaufman's knees as Vigo pushed him along in a wheelchair.

Even Vigo's rhetoric has the ring of the camcorder warrior. In 1933, he declared: "The future belongs to independents." Presenting A Propos De Nice to an audience, he proclaimed a new "social cinema" — "simply a matter... of stirring up echoes other than the belches of those ladies and gentlemen who come to the cinema to digest".

Vigo's background was steeped in such polemical liquor. Born in impoverished conditions in Paris in 1905, he was the son of Eugene Bonaventure de Vigo, a militant anarchist who edited radical newspapers under the *nom de guerre* Miguel Almereyda, an anagram of "*Y'a [de] la merde*" ("There's shit"). The young Vigo spent much of his childhood accompanying his parents to political meetings. Almereyda's anti-militaristic fervour led to his death in 1917. His paper was accused of receiving a cheque from German funds, and he was imprisoned. A week later, he was found hanged in his cell. The official explanation was suicide; it's generally believed he was murdered on police orders. Long after, Almereyda was publicly regarded as a traitor to France, but he was also seen by many on his own side as a traitor to the anarchist cause, having become quite wealthy from his paper, Le Bonnet Rouge.

Jean Vigo was haunted by the cause of Almereyda's innocence: Michel Simon, who starred in L'Atalante, saw him as a Hamlet determined to avenge his father. One of the most conspicuously anarchistic moments in Vigo's work is a direct filial homage in Zéro De Conduite, as the schoolboy Tabard defiantly barks at his teacher, "*Je vous dis 'Merde!*' " ("Shit to you!"), echoing a notorious Almereyda headline.

More fatally, Vigo was haunted by ill-health. In 1926, he first attended a sanatorium near Andorra. It was there that he met another patient, a Polish woman named Elizabeth (Lydou) Lozinska; they married in 1929. Their meeting, according to the writer Pierre Lherminier, turned Vigo from an "anguished dilettante" into "a man intent on action".

Lydou remains a background figure in the otherwise exhaustive 1957 Vigo biography by P E Salles Gomes, but she is as much the subject of Temple's film as Vigo. "I don't think we'd be talking about Vigo now," says Temple, "unless he'd had this relationship with a woman who pushed him. She was an accomplice in pushing his life to the edge." Temple's research persuaded him that Lydou was very much the cement of the Vigos' social world. "All the guys around Vigo were very much in love with her as well, she was a very charismatic person."

That circle included actor Jean Dasté, composer Maurice Jaubert, producer Jacques-Louis Nounez and Polish-born cinematographer Boris Kaufman. Vigo saw filmmaking very much in a collective spirit. He and Lydou ran something of an open salon: according to their friend, André Négis, "You could drop in at three in the morning, you'd never disturb them. They weren't bound to any sort of rule or discipline. Whatever other people did, they didn't do."

That spontaneity extended to the films themselves. For the stalking housemaster in Zéro De Conduite, Vigo recruited the superintendent of his apartment, who had turned up in the small hours to complain about the noise. That film's uproarious schoolboys were recruited ad hoc around Paris by Vigo and friends, who were sometimes mistaken in the process for marauding paedophiles. On set with the boys, the mick. "Irony is a part of life, it's a modern vessel of expression, but it's not a be-all and end-all. It's easy to hide behind, and it's become symptomatic of a time, at least in America, where people are afraid to stand up and take a chance, do something foolish, say what they feel." So maybe he isn't ironic. Or doubly ironic, I don't know.

Above, clockwise from main picture: L'Atalante, the short Taris, Zéro De Conduite and A Propos De Nice. Vigo, right, described Nice as 'a society so lost in escapism that it sickens you'

RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE

Back to the safety of music then, and I tell him about the gloom in pop music in this country — the charts full of 12-year-olds or 40-something comeback people,

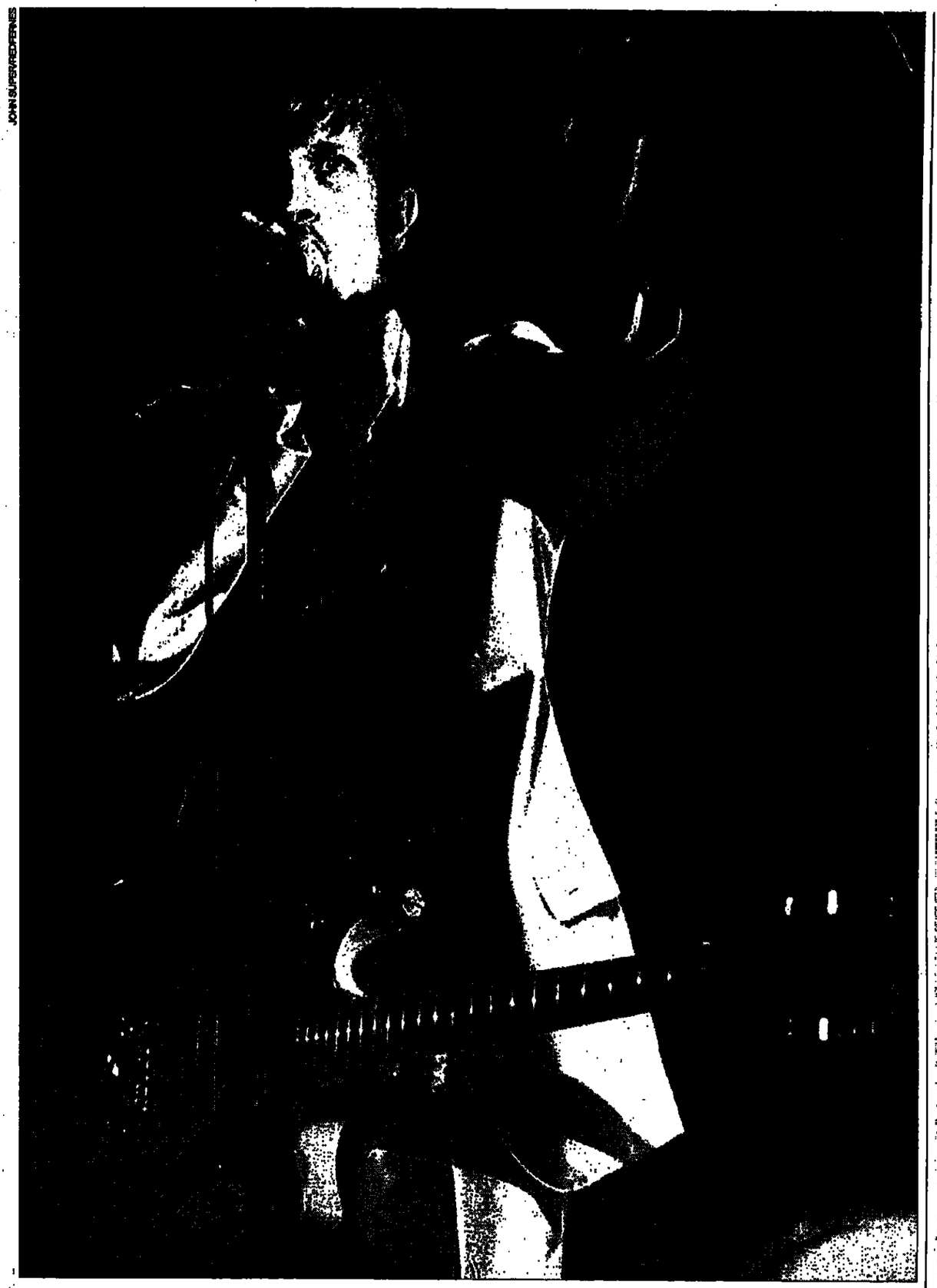
Johnny Cash says 'mountain music runs through Beck's veins'. Good ole boys like Snoop Dogg dig him too

learned articles sounding the death of rock. Beck is more optimistic. "We're always coming to the end of something. And we can look forward to the beginning of something else. I don't know if rock music is dead per se, though good songs may be scarce. I've kept myself away from anything that could be considered rock for a number of years."

So what's he in to listening to now? "I tend to listen to the radio a lot, I like stumbling into things. I'm a fan of all music where the person believes in what they're doing. What I don't care for is the sort of tepid, mediocre stuff that's tasteful but takes no risk, stuff that you could call 'product'. Tastelessness though I find fascinating."

The phone rings, Beck answers. "Hello? I dunno... this is a studio... we're doing an interview...OK". Wrong number.

Somebody somewhere picked up the phone and accidentally got to speak with one of the most interesting people who are around today.



JOHN SUMMERSKINS

My cultural life



Ron Davies
MP for Caerphilly

One of the drawbacks of political life is that there's little time left for a cultural life. When I became Secretary of State for Wales there was time for even less. There were some perks, however. Shortly after my appointment I was a guest at the Cardiff Singer of the World competition which was very enjoyable. Last August I visited the National Eisteddfod where I saw the chairing of the bard — a prize awarded to the best Welsh poem of the year.

I listen to the radio early in the mornings but it's a politician's diet. When I'm in London I listen to the Today programme on Radio 4 and when I'm in Wales I listen to Good Morning Wales on Radio Wales. I enjoy radio for its own sake, but as a politician I usually always find something to make me spit my cornflakes out! I also listen to Radio Cymru to improve my Welsh.

Wales is a great place for music. I've really enjoyed the success of the Manic Street Preachers since they come from just down the road from me. From the other end of the country (Anglesey) The Super Furry Animals have done really well. And the Stereophonics were very supportive during the devolution campaign. It was very encouraging during the campaign to see how many figures from Welsh cultural life supported devolution. That support emphasised my view that Wales is an exciting and stimulating place for the arts. One of my favourite Welsh singers is Dafydd Iwan, who, I guess is a bit like Bob Dylan.

I know it's a stereotype but I really do like male voice choirs and traditional Welsh songs like Myfanwy — they sing it at the memorial service for Princess Diana at Llandaff Cathedral and it was very moving. On the whole I'm not a fan of elitist culture.

Sadly I don't have much time to read. I have quite Catholic tastes. I enjoy the poetry of Idris Davies who wrote a lot of powerful, political poetry about my home area. I also enjoy the work of RS Thomas, one of the world's great poets. He's written some striking poems about the condition of modern Wales but I actually prefer his less political works. I share with him a love of nature. I enjoy solitary walks in the country and his verse puts me in that frame of mind.

I can hardly remember the last time I went to the pictures but it might have been my 11-year-old daughter dragging me to see The Lion King. I'm not really a big film buff but I hugely enjoyed Local Hero. Television just passes me by — basically because my wife and daughter decide what to watch. I have no say!

Interview by Caroline Egan.

Music

They're narcissistic coke fiends with no interest in music, or so the legend goes — yet A&R men shape the future of pop. Surely, asks **Dave Simpson**, they can't be *that* bad, can they?

Where's the bar?

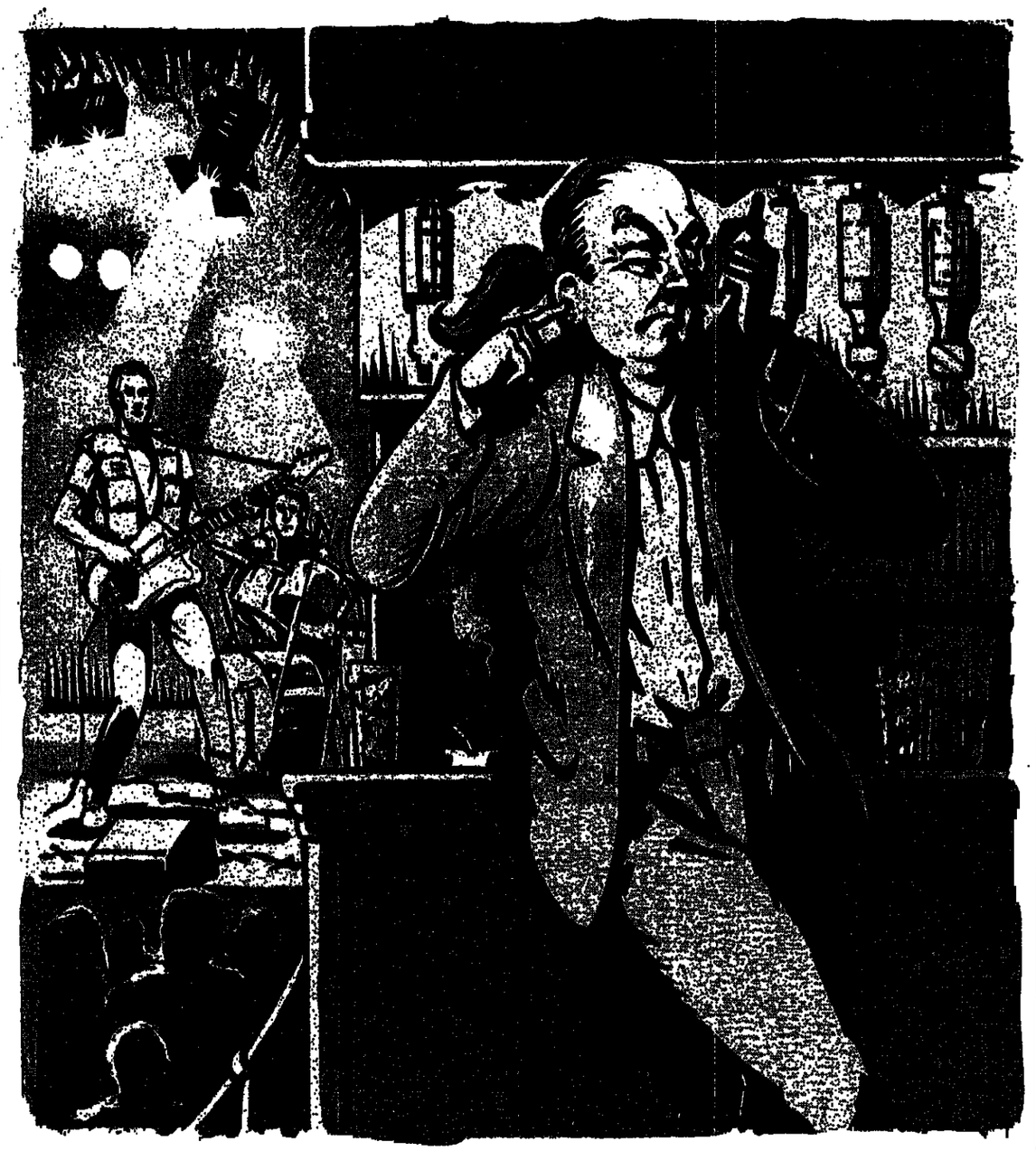


ILLUSTRATION: IVAN ALLEN

Have you heard the one about the bloke who turned down The Beatles? The A&R man (or, increasingly, woman) is probably the most important and easily the most ridiculed person in the music industry. A&R used to stand for Artists & Repertoire but is nowadays a euphemism for "um and ah" or "Where's the bar?"

It's easy to spot the A&R man at a gig: he's the ponytailed one in a suit, at the back. His ears are filled with loo roll because the music's too loud and, in any case, he bases decisions on audience reaction. Of course, it was easier before he developed the raging cocaine habit, which came on because the job demands he speak utter bullshit for so many hours a day. His mobile bleeps. "Yo!" he squeaks in a middle-aged hip-hop voice, "I'll get back to you on that!", before dashing to the comfort of his Jag to relax with some Mahler.

This is the popular image of A&R men put about by cynical hacks, industry legend and bands who've failed with their 65-minute dub remix of Jazz Odyssey. But is it true? Currently, the record industry is in crisis, with established acts from Björk to The Levellers selling poorly (both acts recently failed to make the Top 40) and the all-but-collapse of the indie/guitar market which has graced the industry for years. Hence the pressure is on A&R departments like never before. A&R people have got us into this mess. Worryingly, given their appalling public image, it's up to them to get us out of it.

At Newcastle Riverside on a wet Sunday night, Warners talent scout Dan Moore is as far from the clichéd image of an A&R man as you could imagine. He doesn't have a ponytail, only sniffs because it's bloody freezing and has come in search of the Next Big Thing — instead he's Round Kelly, who are "a bit pub rock". A typical night sees him traipsing hundreds of miles, and often wasting his time. Basically, a talent scout is out seeing up to 10 bands every night whilst his boss — "Mr Magic Ears", the senior or actual A&R man — ventures out of his office a few times every year.

"I've had death threats," insists Alan Wright, a 20-year old Creation scout who's just brought in "Roxy Stooges" One Lady Owner, and lost his childhood sweetheart to the demands of A&R. "I had a bloke stand outside for a month. He had a wooden leg and he was threatening to kill me and [A&R man] Paul Gallagher. He was there for weeks, the police were called in the end. He wanted to play me this tape, but it was a tape of George Michael songs. The geezer was a fuckin' loony."

Why does Wright subject himself to this? "I want to find a band who can make a great album and have my name on it, like John Leckie got his name on The Stone Roses."

Impressive enthusiasm, and yet the talent scouts typify the more excessive, indecisive stereotypes of A&R. They travel in packs, their "opinions" dependent on the say-so of their peers. Scouts tend to cover each others' arses because at this junior level, if they're not on the case they're out of a job. The sheep mentality is for their own protection. Good scouts keep schtum on a hot tip, and present it to their higher "Serious Heads", who need to act quickly to avoid a bidding war.

What does Alan Wright think of A&Rs? "Lazy bastards in it for the trappings and the drugs!" This seditious charm is perfect for the job.

It works like this: scouts (often existing on McDonalds-rate wages) are cynically recruited as "hip young gunslingers", kids who are the same age as the bands they are courting, wear the same clothes and can enthuse about the same music. They're meant to be "on the case", but more importantly appear trustworthy and on the band's side. The band will say: "He's not a fat, middle-aged scumsucker record-company twat. He's one of us." Which, of course, is exactly the point.

To their credit, it's a total misconception that A&Rs are out of touch. On the contrary. They rely on tipoffs from producers, promoters, journalists, managers, studios etc, and narrow them down by elimination. The infrastructure is absurdly sophisticated, but can allow for spontaneity and even hilarity.

"Ken Dodd's Dad's Dog's Dead came and played outside the office at 10.30 in the morning," laughs Andy Ross of Food. "Fine, but I didn't get to work until after they'd gone. This is the music industry!"

Instead, Ross signed The Bluetones (for publishing) after stumbling across them as a support band, and he signed Blur after a tape landed on his doorstep, which refutes the myth that acts are never signed from unsolicited cassettes. But even top dogs admit to mistakes. Polydor's Paul Adam "didn't follow up" Ocean Colour Scene; Ross "passed" on Pulp. "I didn't think they'd sell any records!" he pleads, cringing.

This far up the chain, things get extremely interesting and, often, closer to the myth. Senior A&Rs (on anything up to and over £200,000 a year) earn their stripes through scouting, or come into the job through other positions in the music industry — or, in the case of Creation's Paul Gallagher (brother of Noel and Liam), because they're Paul Gallagher. They tell us that they know best. What they don't tell us is that commercial paydirt is always the bottom line... which is surely the only humane argument for signing Celine Dion.

However, there's still a major difference between a major label and an independent. Gorky's Zygotic Mynci were dropped by Mercury for selling 20,000 records, an amount that would be a triumphant achievement for a smaller label. EMI's Keith Wozencroft insists he'd work with an act selling 20,000 records — as long as he made some money.

A good A&R should have a balanced mixture of economic awareness and enthusiasm, able to balance his personal loves with the company's demands. Wozencroft came into A&R through repping, saw Radiohead play to nobody in a field and progressed to become Parlophone's MD. You'd think he'd be good, and he is. His next signings were Supergrass and Mansun.

"I got a tape first from Radiohead," Wozy remembers, still a fan eight years on. "Then I saw them. I just thought they were a great rock band and people would buy their records." And millions did, which means Wozencroft could probably sign a Krautrock combo and have a job for life. Unlike most.

A&R is a bit like football management — the only certainty is that one day the bullet will come. For every Keith Wozencroft and Andy Ross, hundreds of A&Rs struggle to keep up. Statistically, for every successful signing, there are nine failures. Furthermore, the viciously competitive nature of A&R engenders pressure which makes it an near-impossible job: not to mention the 200 tapes a week, vulnerability to press trends and the occasional drug problem. "In truth," ponders Andy Ross, "I'd say there are a dozen good A&R people in the country. The rest make up the numbers."

And provide the stories. US punks Rancid told one major A&R man that they'd only talk to him if he dyed his hair green (he did; they signed to indie Epitaph). One label's head was so nervous of failure he signed nothing for five years. Entire departments responded to Q magazine's spoof band Comfort Of Strangers — with a blank tape enclosed — with letters declaring "very good, but not what we're looking for"!

But the biggest problem, according to Andy Ross, is that most vapidly follow trends. "If you're in a submarine you don't aim your torpedo where the ship is, because by then it's sailed off," he says. "They don't realise this because they're stupid! The thing about this job, as with many others, is that there are enough stupid people to make you look half-decent. The ponytails don't really exist, although some of the other stuff does."

Encouragingly, Polydor's Paul Adam enthuses genuinely about "the next tape, maybe it will have that magical something that makes your heart flutter".

However, White Town's Jyoti Mishra received a rejection letter from Island Records. It arrived in February 1997... two weeks after his Your Woman single reached Number One. It's now on the toilet wall of his mansion.

Tips for the top

So you want to get signed to a record label? Our experts offer these tips:

Andy Ross (Food): "Get a good tape but don't just look to a local 'manager' to guide you through the rocky waters. A good manager is a major plus, a bad manager is a massive negative. Play London only when you're ready. Songs first, performance second, looks third and I like an intelligent attitude, people like Blur who adapt with the changing times."

Alan Wright (Creation): "Don't play London. If you're good, we'll come running. And don't be uptight about getting a record deal! If you're good, a deal will come. The best bands are gangs of mates who need to be on stage. It's not just a career option."

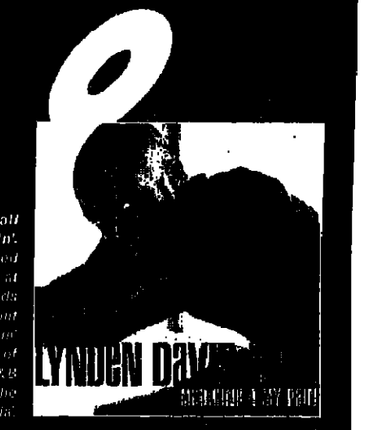
Paul Adam (Polydor): "Play gigs whenever you can. We do listen to all tapes. Work hard locally, find supportive promoters, local press etc, and go to hotels at conventions like Sound City. Leave tapes at reception!"

Keith Wozencroft (EMI): "Phone up! Sometimes someone will just ring up cold and I'll end up chatting. A&R it's about whether you can work with people. Try to get somebody — a contact — to recommend you. It's very difficult to listen to cold tapes for any length of time. If you send one, put your best track first."

Recommended releases.



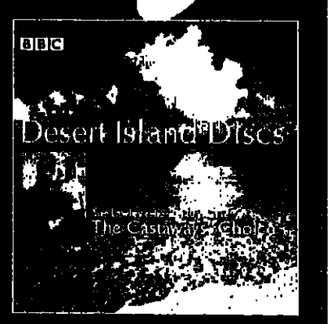
Various Artists 'Blaxploitation - The Best Of'. Soul, jazz and funk from the inner city has been the subtitle to this series of collectable rarities and classic seventies tracks. This 'best of' brings together all the biggest cuts, including such legends as Curtis Mayfield, Isaac Hayes, Gil Scott-Heron and Donnie Elbert Smith. (Out 24.11.98)



Lynden David Hall 'Medicine 4 My Pain'. Lynden deservedly scooped the best newcomer award at last month's MOBO awards with this fantastic debut album. 'Medicine 4 My Pain' displays his winning mix of smooth soul and funky R&B to the full, as shown by the recent single 'Sexy Cinderella'.



Taj Mahal 'The Very Best Of'. One of the giants of world music for over thirty years, Taj Mahal has recorded with everyone from Miles Davis to Sheryl Crow. This compilation shows why he is held in such high regard: a blistering blues guitar technique and a willingness to explore new musical styles.



Various Artists 'Desert Island Discs - The Castaway's Choice'. Consistently one of the most popular shows on British radio, this two CD set coincides with Sue Lawley's tenth anniversary as presenter of Desert Island Discs. It includes some of the most popular classical pieces chosen by the castaways, including work by Mozart, Schubert and Gershwin.

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TOP GEAR

3: Minimoog



Steven Poole's guide to the sonic tools that revolutionised pop

Moog is such an evocative name — the "moo" of placid, bovine friendliness, darkly laced with the stylised, ultramodern violence of "Droog" — that it's hard to believe Bob Moog, inventor of the synthesizer, was actually christened thus. And in one way, indeed, his hideously successful progeny have rendered him the phonetic impostor: his surname rhymes with "vogue", but references to Moog synthesizers sound resolutely cow-like.

Born in New York in 1934, Moog collected degrees and doctorates in physics and engineering before setting up the R A Moog Company in 1954, designing and selling home-made transistorized Theremins.

By the mid-1960s, the groundbreaking Moog products were the huge "modular" synthesisers. Oscillators, filters and amps could be linked together however you liked by plugging cables between them. Moogs were so expensive that they sold only to big studios, universities and rich musicians.

The big Moog breakthrough was the appearance in 1969 of Switched On Bach, 10 Bach compositions played on a Moog by composer Walter Carlos. It was a canny, sexy choice. The rudimentary electronic technology was not up to recreating the virtuoso sonorities of Romantic music, for example — Switched On Rachmaninov would have been a disaster. But the mathematical purity of the Bach was able to withstand any amount of grungey sonorities, while conversely, the sinoidal purity of certain electronic tones often enabled the listener to hear different simultaneous musical lines more clearly.

It was bijou and compact, with a control panel that looked like a Nasa console

Switched On Bach, which married shameless harpsichord imitations with joyously new-fangled burbles, squawks and chirrupings, sold nearly 50,000 copies in its first six weeks, and went on to sell a cool million.

Suddenly rock musicians were clamouring for the Moog sound. A new era of space-age musical experimentation had begun. Meanwhile, the surreal fascination of cinematic sci-fi had found its perfect sonic avatar — Moogs and Theremins provided the backbone for the extraordinarily avant-garde soundtrack to Forbidden Planet. On probably the most unpopular album ever made by a Beatle, George Harrison noodled around on a Moog for two hours and called the result, with typical inspiration, Electronic Sound.

In 1971 a fat slice of Moog was suddenly made available to everyone with the release of the Minimoog. Bijou and compact, with an angled control panel pleasingly reminiscent of a Nasa console, a "serious" woodgrain finish, and requiring no DIY cabling, it became the company's definitive instrument. Crucially, it also made a strong statement that the keyboard was not privileged: to play the instrument well demanded dexterity in dial-turning and electronic sound-forging as well as the usual pianistic motor skills.

The Minimoog was suddenly everywhere. Pink Floyd married its squelchy muscle to walls of guitar to produce their brooding epics, and the synthesiser as a force in pop had arrived. The iron logic of historical necessity led inexorably to the music of Kraftwerk, the Orb, 808 State and the Prodigy — bands which, despite vastly increased synth resources, have all used Minimoogs. But no technology is entirely benign in its effects: had there been no Moog, and hence no Switched On Bach, we might never have had Andrew Lloyd Webber's evil prog-rock traduction of the Enigma Variations. Was it, in the end, really worth it?

Pink Floyd Animals
Kraftwerk Neon Lights
Neil Young Trans
Gary Numan Cars
Portishead Humming

The disastrous effects of the Capitalisation of London indie radio station XFM continue — 46,000 listeners have now switched off in disgust since Capital took them over. The problem, they say, is that what was once a cutting-edge radio station is now about as alternative as Robson and Jerome. However much it haemorrhages cool points, though, with disaffected fans now tuning in to GLR, XFM is putting a bravo face on the plummeting audience figures. "I think they show stability," said a spokesman. At least they haven't lost their sense of humour yet...